

## **St. Charles Hospital Dental Clinic Provides Jefferson's Ferry Residents with Free Oral Cancer Screening**

**(Port Jefferson, NY)** - In celebration of National Oral Cancer Month, St. Charles Hospital's Dental Clinic held a free oral cancer screening for residents of Jefferson's Ferry, South Setauket, and Sunrise Assisted Living, East Setauket, on Wednesday, April 4.

Dr. Mark Cherches, Director, St. Charles Hospital's Dental Residency Program, Dr. Stephen Scott-Lavino, Chairman, Oral Cancer Screening Day, and Dr. Brian Glover, Co-chairman, joined by three dental residents from St. Charles Hospital's Dental Clinic, provided more than 40 individuals with a visual head and neck examination, as well as an oral soft tissue examination. During the examination, the dentist visually inspected all oral and gingival tissues, as well as high-risk areas, for the presence of cancer or pre-malignant changes. In addition, a thorough medical and dental history from the patient provided dentists with information on any oral cancer risk factors, such as tobacco and alcohol use.

The theme for 2007 National Oral Cancer Month is ***Oral Health—Good for Life***, with the focus on the importance of a healthy mouth. Approximately 34,000 people in the US will be newly diagnosed with oral cancer in 2007. In the U.S. alone, a person dies from oral cancer every hour of every day. In addition, research shows there may be a link between oral disease and other health problems, such as certain kinds of pneumonia, diabetes, heart disease and stroke, as well as pre-term and low birth weight babies. When found early, oral cancers have an 80 to 90 % cure rate.

St. Charles Hospital has provided dental services to the community since 1907. The Dental Clinic is dedicated to providing preventive and restorative dental care with compassion for all patients including those with physical and developmental disabilities. The Clinic houses seven operatories and is staffed by three residents. Residents are supervised by a dedicated staff of approximately 60 local dentists who volunteer their time and expertise at the Clinic one day each month. The Clinic also offers a Dental Residency Program, which is an educational program designed to provide clinical, didactic and hospital experience at the post-doctoral level.

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