

Dear Doctor,

We would like to challenge every dental office in the **Sioux Falls Metro** area to participate in the first annual **South Dakota Oral Cancer Foundation Walk**. Oral cancer is dentistry's cancer. We are the first line of early discovery of suspect tissues as pre cancers and early-stage cancers leads to better long-term outcomes and less treatment-related morbidity. Oral cancer will impact 53,000 newly diagnosed individuals in America this year alone, and will take one person's life every hour of the day 24-7-365. Early discovery of suspect tissues as pre cancers and early stage cancers themselves, leads to better long-term outcomes, and less treatment related morbidity. The screenings that we do in our offices potentially will save lives.



Now it is time to add another dimension to our oral cancer efforts. The largest and most engaged national charity in this cause is the **Oral Cancer Foundation**. (www.oralcancer.org) The OCF funds life-saving research and work that elucidates mechanisms for early discovery and furthers disease understanding. They provide direct peer to peer support for oral cancer patients and their caregivers. The foundation disseminates vetted professional and public information on oral and oropharyngeal cancer, and they work as advocates for national policies that facilitate disease awareness, early discovery, and improve treatments and their outcomes.

On **September 28, 2019**, our community is going to join forces with the OCF, in educating area citizens, doing free public screenings, and donating our time and money to a very worthy cause, which will fund research that changes the future of this cancer. Our goal is to get every dental office to bring a team to participate in this year's awareness and fundraising walk. Let's see how many walkers we can recruit and how much money each of the walkers can raise! We need everyone to take this disease and and this opportunity seriously. Who will be the office to win the coveted traveling trophy for the biggest donation to the South Dakota Oral Cancer Foundation Walk, and be the recipient of a **VELscopeE** Your office will have their name permanently inscribed on the trophy for the first winner of the **Dental Office Challenge 2019!**

Please log onto the Oral Cancer Foundation website at <https://donate.oralcancer.org/event/southdakota>

to register, and for event information. We are very excited to bring awareness about oral cancer to the Sioux Falls area and to launch an annual fun tradition for the dental community. Come and join us. We can change the future of oral cancer, one step at a time. If you have any questions please reach out to one of the organizers below.

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