

Study club honored for elevating educational standards in the New York City area

Author_Dental Tribune America

The Office of Queens Council Member Daniel J. Halloran submitted awards to Dr Alexander Ross Kerr of New York University and Dr Robert Trager, to acknowledge their work in raising educational standards and awareness on Oral Cancer at a recent meeting of the Fialkoff Dental Study Club.

Dr Bernard Fialkoff, a Queens periodontist and dental implant specialist, founded the club in the mid '90s and invited two of the most prominent dentists in New York to present the New York state-mandated oral cancer screening course. More than 160 dentists from Long Island, the boroughs, New Jersey and even Connecticut participated in the course.

The Oral Cancer Foundation and LED Dental's Velscope and Zila's ViziLite Plus, both oral cancer screening devices, sponsored the seminar, providing additional information on ways to detect oral cancer in dental offices.

Fialkoff said, "Many dental publications today are publishing articles on the preventative methods we can take on oral cancer. It is my job to ensure our study club members are kept abreast of the latest dental technology. We invited Dr Kerr and Dr Trager, as they fit the bill to impart this vital information to our attending dentists, who can in turn, bring this information to their offices and further help their patients. The driving purpose of our study club is to raise dental standards throughout the Greater New York area through our monthly educational presentations and meetings."

Council Member Halloran's City Council Citation award reads, "Such service, which is truly the lifeblood of the community and the city, so often goes unrecognized and unrewarded."

Kerr is a clinical associate professor of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, Radiology &

Medicine at New York University College of Dentistry, a member of the steering committee for the World Workshop on Oral Medicine and a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Oral Cancer Foundation. Trager has dental practices at LaGuardia and JFK airports and is the chairman of the Oral Cancer Committee for the Nassau County Dental Society, past president of the Queens County Dental Society, and is known throughout New York for volunteering at Belmont Raceway Track, Saratoga's horse races and numerous other occasions providing free oral cancer screenings.

Attending dentists learned methods on preventing oral cancer, effective communication methods to help their patients avoid the dangers of the disease and practiced using the oral cancer screening device at the meeting. Kerr's NYU Oral Cancer Clinic also gave out informational materials on the research and work it is doing.

The study club has an audience of 60 to 100 dentists each month. It focuses on raising dental excellence, standards and camaraderie in the New York boroughs. The club will continue its monthly meetings into 2012 with a presentation in September by Dr Mark Montgomery, in October by Dr Bernard Fialkoff and with a special appearance by Dr Harold Edelman in December, instructing on the mandatory infection control course.

Fialkoff has had a periodontal, dental implant and cosmetic laser surgery office for more than 31 years on 56-03 214th St. in Bayside, N.Y. The office web site and blog, which shows study club photos and bulletins, and other community activities of the office, is www.baysidedentist.com. Study Club newsletters and past photos are also available for viewing at www.facebook.com/DrBernardFialkoffDDS.

(Source: Fialkoff Dental Study Club)