

National Gum Health Day 2020: A Day to Cherish in NSPOI History

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Why is any special day celebrated? The commemoration of any "title day" in the world is celebrated as the day of great achievement, it can be a monumental day or it can be the registration day. Nepalese Society of Periodontology and Oral Implantology (NSPOI) was officially registered at Kathmandu District Office, Nepal on 8th January 2014 with 11 founder members. With the commencement of academics in dentistry in Nepal in 1999, the role of Periodontists became vital in dentistry. Before that in clinical practice in the country, all the periodontal problems and related issues were taken care by general dentists. The year 1999 became important in dental history as the postgraduate degree in Periodontics was bestowed on a Nepalese citizen for the first time and the bachelor degree in dentistry was started the same year. Starting with modest founding members now NSPOI family comprises of 60 motivated and dedicated members and most academic institutes in Nepal have qualified Periodontists to cater both the need of patients as well as academics. NSPOI continues to grow by number every year with the graduation of minimum 8 to 10 Periodontists in the country per year.

Since the formation of NSPOI, it has not only been conducting regular conferences, it has also brought all Periodontists together. Post graduate conventions and clinical meets annually with good participation

by Periodontists, dental surgeons and other dental specialists are a norm now. Such type of events have become a good platform for exchange of ideas, sharing knowledge, and networking. However, it is yet to meet the demand for need of public awareness regarding Periodontal diseases and its prevention in Nepalese population. With the start of National Gum Health Day, NSPOI has taken a lead role to make public more aware regarding gum diseases that cause bad breath, bleeding gums, loosening of teeth and early loss of teeth. However, our aim to increase public awareness should not be limited to Periodontal diseases only but also include association of periodontal diseases with systemic health and quality of life.

The future awareness programmes of NSPOI will not only concentrate in the national capital but will also spread all across the country. This can be achieved by collaboration and contribution by all members and stakeholders.

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