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**ORAL HEALTH AMERICA AND SPECIAL CARE DENTISTRY ASSOCIATION
PARTNER TO PROVIDE ONLINE ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION
TO OLDER ADULTS AND CARE ADVISORS**

Special Care Dentistry Association members will contribute knowledge and written content to educate older adults and family caregivers on oral health topics through Oral Health America's Wisdom Tooth Project web portal

CHICAGO, IL, January 31, 2012—Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA), an international organization of professionals promoting oral health and well-being for people with special needs, and Oral Health America (OHA), a national non-profit organization, announce a unique partnership dedicated to the oral health of our nation's fastest growing age group—older adults.

In 2012, Special Care Dentistry Association's membership, comprised of oral health professionals from the American Association of Hospital Dentists (AAHD), the Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities (ADPD) and the American Society for Geriatric Dentistry (ASGD), will work with staff at Oral Health America to generate written content for OHA's Wisdom Tooth Project web portal, an online space currently being developed with a goal to connect older adults and their "care advisors"—including their children, family, and friends—with oral health resources and education on national and local levels.

"Many of our SCDA members are not only academic and research experts in geriatric dentistry, but they are also working with patients each day, helping older Americans who face chronic conditions and other health concerns that complicate their oral health care," says L. Stanley Brysh, DMD, President of SCDA. "Our members welcome the opportunity to explain common issues of the aging mouth in simple terms to educate care advisors and older adults who may not otherwise have access to this type of oral health information."

The education resources provided by SCDA members will help OHA's Wisdom Tooth Project build a robust national portal committed solely to the oral health needs of older adults in America—a group the U.S. Census Bureau expects to make up nearly 20 percent of the entire U.S. population by 2030.

“With 10,000 Baby Boomers reaching retirement age each day in the U.S., OHA recognizes the importance of connecting all older Americans—especially those most vulnerable—with education and resources for care in their own local communities,” says Beth Truett, President and CEO of Oral Health America. “By collaborating with SCDA to build a web portal, one of the key strategies of OHA’s Wisdom Tooth Project, OHA is leading a national effort to arm older adults and their care advisors with the information they need to improve their own oral health and prevent dental disease and decay.”

About OHA’s Wisdom Tooth Project® for Older Adults

[The Wisdom Tooth Project](#) changes the lives of “older and wiser” adults who are especially vulnerable to oral disease. Through local community demonstration projects, a web portal with both national and local resources, interdisciplinary regional symposia, and communications initiatives, OHA is leading an effort to improve the oral and overall health of aging Americans. Oral Health America is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to connect communities with resources to increase oral health access, education, and advocacy for all Americans, especially those most vulnerable. To learn more about OHA, visit www.oralhealthamerica.org.

About Special Care Dentistry Association

Special Care Dentistry Association is a unique international organization of oral health professionals and other individuals who are dedicated to promoting oral health and well-being for people with special needs. SCDA provides educational opportunities and information exchange for oral health care professionals who treat patients with special needs. SCDA’s mission is to act as a central focus for diverse individuals and groups with a common interest in oral health for people with special needs and direct its resources accordingly. To learn more about SCDA, visit www.scdaonline.org.