



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Oct. 27, 2005

**CONTACT:** Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239

## **ORAL HEALTH CAN SPEAK VOLUMES**

*Link Between Oral Health and Overall Health Among Topics of Discussion at Oct. 27 Event*

Developing strategies to improve the oral health of San Diego County residents is one of the goals of the upcoming San Diego Oral Health Forum, scheduled from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27.

The forum, to take place at the Barnes Tennis Center in Point Loma, 4490 West Point Loma Blvd., San Diego, will bring together representatives from public and private health, as well as community leaders, to discuss the link between oral disease and overall health.

“Recent scientific evidence shows a connection between oral disease and many health conditions including pre-term birth, heart disease, and diabetes,” said Pam Slater-Price, San Diego County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman. “The Board of Supervisors has identified oral health as a critical health initiative for this reason.”

“Every day, there are kids who can’t concentrate in school because of pain from an untreated mouth or gum infection, and there are rural and homebound adults who have difficulty accessing dental care,” said First District Supervisor Greg Cox. “Progress has been made to reach those who need help most, but there’s a lot more that needs to be done.”

*The U.S. Surgeon General’s 2003 report, A National Call to Action to Promote Oral Health,* calls upon individuals from all sectors to affirm that oral health is essential to general health and well-being. The forum’s goal coincides with the vision in the Surgeon General’s *Call to Action*, “to advance the general health and well-being of all Americans by creating critical partnerships at all levels of society to engage in programs to promote oral health and prevent disease.”

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency and the San Diego County Dental Health Coalition are sponsoring the event, with funding provided by the San Diego County Dental Health Foundation.

###