



The Dr. Samuel D. Harris
**NATIONAL
MUSEUM of
DENTISTRY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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‘YOUR SPITTING IMAGE’ EXHIBIT REVEALS WHAT YOUR MOUTH SAYS ABOUT YOU

Exhibit opens at Impression 5 Science Center in Lansing, Michigan this fall

BALTIMORE, MD (September 9, 2009)—Did you know that a person can be identified from the DNA in saliva left behind on a postage stamp? The average person creates enough saliva each day to fill a soft-drink bottle? Teeth can survive fires reaching 2012 degrees F? ***Your Spitting Image***, a new traveling exhibit from the National Museum of Dentistry, reveals what your mouth says about you. Find out how forensic scientists use dental records and DNA analysis to solve real missing person cases, discover the telling secrets revealed by saliva, and find out how your mouth is a window to health for your body.

Your Spitting Image will be on view at the Impression 5 Science Center in Lansing, Michigan this fall. In this engaging hands-on exhibition devoted to oral health, visitors will be able to explore:

Forensics: Solving Mysteries - Learn how forensic dentists help law enforcement identify missing persons and how dental radiographs are used to identify crime victims. See how DNA samples from a toothbrush are used to make identifications, use replica skulls to determine gender and ethnicity, and chart the dental characteristics of an unknown victim.

Saliva: A Remarkable Fluid - See how much saliva we each produce in a day, and open wide and look in the mirror to see where saliva comes from. Peer under a magnifying glass to identify the molecules in saliva and find out what they do, and discover how saliva is being used as a diagnostic tool. Plus, dare to sniff bad breath and good breath – then learn the right way to brush, floss and rinse for a healthy mouth.



Bioengineering: Making a New You - Discover how the science of bioengineering is changing how we take care of our teeth. Trace the evolution of tooth replacement since 2,500 B.C., learn how adult stem cells are being used to grow replacement teeth in the laboratory, and find the key to how salivary glands may be used to cure diseases.

Your Spitting Image is the latest in a series of successful traveling exhibitions created by the National Museum of Dentistry, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the nation’s official museum of the dental profession. These innovative traveling exhibitions have reached more than 2 million people at children’s and science museums throughout North America. ***Your Spitting Image*** was most recently on view at the American Dental Association headquarters in Chicago, Illinois.

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Your Spitting Image was developed with grants from Patterson Dental Foundation, Johnson & Johnson Consumer & Personal Products Worldwide, Planmeca Inc, Dr. Leslie W. Seldin and Dr. Constance P. Winslow, Dr. Laurence E. Johns, and Dr. Robert J. Wilson

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY

The Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is a lively national center where visitors discover the power of a healthy smile and the rich history of dentistry. Designated by Congress as the official museum of the dental profession in the United States, the museum's collection of 40,000 objects tells the story of dentistry through changing and traveling exhibits, school tours, and family days. Highlights include George Washington's lower denture, Queen Victoria's personal dental instruments, and an extraordinary collection of toothbrushes ranging from the 1800s to the present.

The National Museum of Dentistry is located at 31 S. Greene Street in Baltimore, Maryland. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and students with ID, \$3 for children age 3-19; and free for age 2 & under. Open Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday 1— p.m. Closed Mondays, Tuesdays, and major holidays. Call 410/706-0600 or visit www.smile-experience.org.

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