

The research just keeps rolling in linking gum disease to other systemic diseases. Here is yet another example!

#### TAKING GUM DISEASE TO HEART

A consensus paper on the link between heart disease and gum disease was published in the June 2009 online editions of both *The American Journal of Cardiology* and *The Journal of Periodontology*. The paper, developed by both periodontists and cardiologists, summarizes the scientific data that links the diseases and places emphasis on the role of inflammation. The paper also includes clinical recommendations for both medical and dental professionals to use in managing patients living with, or at risk for, either disease. Included in the paper is a recommendation that cardiologists examine a patient's mouth and that dentists begin asking patients about their heart health and family history.

Our office is now closed for Christmas holidays and will reopen again on January 5, 2010. Our answering service will be taking calls 24/7 and will relay all messages to Dr. Mahoney. We hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season.