



INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF 100% SMOKEFREE LEGISLATION IN SPAIN AND AROUND THE WORLD

“Secondhand smoke exposes you to the same compounds as active smoking, and the time of exposure can actually be longer: if you smoke a cigarette, you are exposed for ten minutes; if you are sitting in bar, you could be exposed for several hours. Experimental studies show that if you give a nonsmoker secondhand smoke, you can show activation of blood platelets; you can show disruption of blood vessel function within minutes of exposure. And some of these effects last for an hour or many hours after exposure.”

Neal L. Benowitz, MD, Director of the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute Bland Lane Center of Excellence on Secondhand Smoke at University of California at San Francisco

“The scientific evidence is irrefutable and there is no doubt that someone who lives, works, or studies with a smoker in closed space can develop the same type of illness as the ones developed among individuals consuming tobacco. And the only way to avoid the harmful effects is not ventilation, or separation of smoking and nonsmoking areas, but the prohibition of smoking in all closed-off areas.”

Eduardo Bianco, President, Tobacco Epidemic Research Center of Uruguay (CIET)

“Tobacco is among the world’s most important risk factors for cardiovascular disease, but many people do not recognize it. Getting people with heart disease to stop smoking and avoid exposure to secondhand smoke improves outcomes as much or more than any single medical treatment that we can offer.”

Sidney C. Smith, Jr. M.D, President Elect, World Heart Federation

“The bottom line is that we were able to find a causal association generally between secondhand smoke exposure and cardiovascular disease . . . and that we could be confident that smoking bans do actually lead to a reduction in heart attacks among nonsmokers.”

Lynn R. Goldman, MD, Johns Hopkins University, Chair of the committee that prepared the 2009 IOM Report Secondhand Smoke: The Cardiovascular Effects.

“Smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke endangers the health of 900 million people in China. Even light smokers double their risk of myocardial infarction. If we ban smoking in public places and actively promote quitting, within a year we could expect a dramatic reduction in heart attacks.”

Hu Dayi, President, Society of Cardiology of the Chinese Medical Association



Health considerations will lead all countries to reinforce their tobacco control measures to protect smokers and non smokers alike. Our objective must be that strict protection norms are applicable in the European Union in a uniform manner. Tobacco kills in all European Union countries, including Spain and France. Because health care is also becoming increasingly expensive, all countries will have to reinforce their fight against tobacco which kills 500 000 people in Europe of which 65000 are in France and 50000 in Spain. Like many other countries in the European Union, Spain must impose stronger protective measures for its citizens, smokers and non smokers alike. Spain will then help Europe to adopt the most effective regulations to protect people from the devastating effects of tobacco.

Yves Bur, Mayor of Lingholsheim; Member of the European Affairs Commission; Member of the Social Affairs Commission; Ex-Vice President , National Assembly

COMMENTS ON THE “SPANISH MODEL”

“Spain should be a model for the Hispanic world. Legislators in Latin American countries, influenced by the tobacco industry and its allies, frequently tout the “Spanish model” as a better model for Latin American countries. I have worked closely with advocates seeking 100% smokefree environments in Latin America, and have found that many Latin American countries have resisted the Spanish model and gone on to successfully enact and implement 100% smokefree policies. They recognize that the “Spanish model” may be a better model for selling cigarettes, but it is certainly not better for people’s health.”

Beatriz Marcet Champagne, PhD, InterAmerican Heart Foundation

“The “Spanish model” is a label that covers a large number of confusing exceptions and special rules for specific types of hospitality venues which are well-nigh impossible to make sense of for the layperson. It does not solve the problem of passive smoking, but merely gives rise to endless disputes about how to improve non-smoking protection and to create fair competition in the hospitality sector. The main victims of the “Spanish model” are hospitality workers, who have no choice but to expose themselves without any protection to the dangers of passive smoking if they do not want to lose their job. The “Irish solution” represents an alternative to the “Spanish model”. The example of Ireland shows that a nationwide, uniform ban on smoking in the hospitality sector with no exceptions can satisfy both the requirements of health protection and equal economic opportunity.”

Nick Schneider, MD, Science Manager, German Cancer Research Center