

Smoke-free Meetings Policy for NIH Components

The NCI Smoke-free Meetings Policy

(<http://dccps.cancer.gov/tcrb/smokefreemeetingpolicy.html>) was announced in July 2006.

The press release can be found at

<http://www.cancer.gov/newscenter/pressreleases/smoke-freepolicyrelease>.

The policy states:

NCI recognizes that Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) is an important preventable cause of death from cancer and other illnesses, and that many Americans, both adults and children, remain at significant risk from ETS exposure. In order to reduce cancer and other serious health hazards caused by ETS exposure, all meetings and conferences organized and/or sponsored by NCI shall be held in a town, city, county, or state that is smoke free, unless specific circumstances justify an exception from this policy.

The exceptions statement is:

The new policy addresses meetings and conferences primarily organized or sponsored by NCI that involve 20 or more attendees. The policy excludes conference grants and other grant sponsored meetings, or meetings in which NCI is but one of many organizers. Meetings held on NCI campuses are also exempt. A list of additional permitted exceptions to the policy is currently under review

NIDA followed the NCI lead (<http://www.drugabuse.gov/about/smokingpolicy.html>) with the following statement on their website:

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) recognizes that exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) is an important preventable cause of death and disease, and that reducing such exposure will not only improve the public health but may also facilitate quit attempts by those addicted to tobacco, benefiting their health as well. Therefore, all meetings and conferences organized and/or sponsored by NIDA shall be held in a town, city, county, or state that is smoke free, unless specific circumstances justify an exception from this policy.

Exceptions to the NIDA Policy are addressed:

The new smoke-free meeting policy addresses meetings and conferences primarily organized or sponsored by NIDA that involve 20 or more attendees. The following can be exempted from the policy:

- Conference grants (e.g. R13) and other grantee sponsored meetings,
- Site visits at institutions supported by and/or applying for NIDA funding,
- Meetings in which NIDA is but one of many organizers,
- Meetings/conferences held in coordination with other meetings/conferences that are not sponsored by NIDA,
- Meetings scheduled prior to January 1, 2007,
- Meetings that need to be convened in close proximity to a special population group (e.g., a Tribal community), and

- Meetings held at the NIDA IRP Campus
- Additional exemption requests will be considered on a case by case basis.

With their lead, we at the Fogarty International Center have also agreed to help limit this significant health hazard by implanting the same Smoke-free Meeting Policy including the following exceptions:

- Site visits at institutions supported by and/or applying for FIC funding,
- Meetings in which FIC is but one of many organizers,
- Meetings held on the NIH campus
- Meetings/conferences held in coordination with other meetings/conferences that are not sponsored by FIC,
- Meetings that need to be convened in close proximity to a special population group (e.g., a Tribal community),
- International meetings, although attempts will be made to hold such meetings in smoke-free facilities and jurisdictions when possible, and
- Additional exemption requests will be considered on a case by case basis.

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