

people. We have found this technique extremely effective in fostering receptivity to tobacco education. Indeed, the strength of this technique is evidenced by its effectiveness with sceptics of all ages. We hope that others will share their creative epidemiology techniques and experiences with readers of this journal.

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International Network Towards Smoke-free Hospitals

I am disappointed that health care and public health leaders have been so slow to recognise both the health value and the symbolic value of totally smoke-free hospitals. Hospital smoking bans should be a minimal step on the road to a healthier smoke-free society. A helpful new international resource for those who seek to develop smoke-free hospitals has been founded as a new charity in London, the United Kingdom.

The International Network Towards Smokefree Hospitals was established with the following goal: "to protect, preserve and improve the health of patients, visitors and persons working in hospitals or in connection with health services, particularly nurses, in [the United Kingdom] and overseas, by

helping to protect such persons from the risks and injurious consequences of tobacco smoking, including fire risks." It will soon publish a report of its first, very successful, seminar, held on 1 October 1991 in London. It was attended by key representatives from the international health community.

A particular aim will be to publish successful actions by nurses and other hospital employees who have taken significant steps forward in removing smoking from hospitals. Kathy Scharli from Mesa, Arizona, United States, whose individual actions resulted in a total ban on all smoking within her hospital (without exceptions or loopholes), was the first nurse to be commended by the International Network Towards Smokefree Hospitals.

For information on the new charity and its future plans, contact Tom Hurst, 20 Grange Meadow, Banstead, Surrey SM7 3RD, United Kingdom. (Tel (44 737) 356248.)

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