

July 19, 2006

John E. Niederhuber, MD  
National Cancer Institute  
Bldg. 31, Rm. 11A48  
31 Center Drive, MSC 2590  
Bethesda, MD 20892-2590

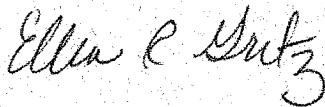
Dear Dr. Niederhuber,

As the President of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT), and Chair of the Department of Behavioral Science at the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, in Houston Texas, I strongly support and applaud your recent Smoke-Free Meeting Policy. SRNT has a similar policy in place for the selection of its meeting sites.

The scientific and medical evidence are solidly in place for this policy, as presented in the newly released Report of the Surgeon General and the earlier Cal EPA Report. In addition the NIH State of the Science Meeting held in June, 2006 on smoking and tobacco use presented another evidence-based report which included the harms of Second Hand Smoke (SHS). Finally, your issuance of this policy during the 13th World Congress on Tobacco OR Health showed a strong alliance with this important international meeting.

I congratulate NCI on this move and thank you for the leadership role NCI continues to play in the area of tobacco control.

Sincerely,



Ellen R. Gritz, PhD  
Professor and Chair, Department of Behavioral Science  
Olla S. Stribling Distinguished Chair for Cancer Research  
The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center