

2022 National Conference on Tobacco or Health

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Primary Presenter

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Biography Since founding the first physicians' anti-smoking activist organization Doctors Ought to Care (DOC) in 1977, Dr. Blum has given over 2000 invited presentations on tobacco and has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles. As editor of the Medical Journal of Australia and the New York State Journal of Medicine, he produced the first theme issues on the world tobacco pandemic at any journal. In 1988 he received the Surgeon General's Medallion from Dr. C. Everett Koop, who wrote, "Dr. Blum has done more against smoking than anyone." In 2006 Amherst College awarded him an honorary Doctor of Science for his career-long effort to combat the tobacco industry. Since 1998, he has served as Professor of Family Medicine and Director of the Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society (csts.ua.edu), the most comprehensive archive of original documents and ephemera of the tobacco industry and the anti-smoking movement throughout the past century.

Have you ever been employed by or received any funding from the tobacco industry (including manufacturers of tobacco products, the Tobacco Institute, law firms, or other interests representing tobacco companies to conduct research or provide consultation), the pharmaceutical industry (including producers of smoking cessation products), or another for-profit healthcare company that sells products or conducts research relevant to tobacco control policies (including e-cigarette manufacturers or marketing companies)?: I have not received any funding from these entities.

Please provide additional detail explaining the funding received and your relationship with the entity. If your abstract is accepted, you will be required to complete and sign a disclosure of conflicts of interest form providing this detail and more of these relationships.:

Session Information

Poster Session:

Panel Presentation (75 minutes): Yes

Individual Presentation (20 minutes):

Session Title: Unsung heroes in the effort to curb cigarette smoking, passive smoking, and tobacco advertising

Session Abstract: please provide a brief (500 words or less) description of this proposed session. Please note that if your abstract is accepted this description may be published in meeting materials as is, or may be edited for clarity or brevity.: Maureen Neuberger, Alton Ochsner, Patty Young, Roy Norr, Donna Shimp, David Rutstein, George Seldes, Henry McNeil "Mandrake" Brown, Jr, George Gitlitz, Father Michael Crosby, and Sabina Shalom are but a few of the individuals who made significant contributions over the past century in the efforts to reduce tobacco use, exposure to second-hand smoke, and cigarette advertising, but whose names are little recognized, even by veteran anti-smoking activists. Since its inception in the 1990s, the National Conference on Tobacco or Health has not included a dedicated section on the history of anti-smoking advocacy, and a

definitive account of this work in the U.S. has yet to be written. This illustrated presentation aims to redress this oversight. In the author's nearly fifty years of continuous involvement in anti-smoking activism (a field re-named "tobacco control" by academia and health departments in the early-1990s in part to distance themselves from radical grassroots activist groups and individuals), he has worked with or communicated with hundreds of unsung anti-smoking heroes, most of whom were unpaid volunteers. Many were also risk-takers who spoke out, led public demonstrations, and lobbied elected officials at a time when cigarette makers' political donations, research grants, and advertising dollars had an outsized clout in the mass media, at universities, and on Capitol Hill. In addition, throughout the 1980s and well into the 1990s, tobacco industry-funded smokers' rights groups were as vocal and intimidating as the anti-vaccination and anti-facemask militants are today. This presentation recounts the stories of several of these anti-smoking pioneers, lists the accomplishments of many others, and invites participants to add to this roll of honor. Each state and territory has such unsung heroes. These individuals and their contributions will be included on the website of the University of Alabama Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society (csts.ua.edu), which also has an extensive oral history section (<https://csts.ua.edu/multimedia/oral-histories/>). A partial list of individuals whose efforts will be described on the website includes Rita Addison, Ed Anselm, Jim Benerofe, Pete Bialick, Brent Blue, Gene Borio, Anthony Brown, Luke Burchard, Regina Carlson, Julia Carol, Sheldon Cohen, Ken Dahlberg, Gordon Draves, Joel Dunnington, Mark Edell, Lee Fairbanks, Albert Fields, Paul Fischer, Tariq Fischer, Chris Fletcher, Ripley Forbes, Jim Forde, Andrew Gill, Heinz Ginsel, Mark Glassner, Adam Goldstein, Abigail Halperin, Peter Hanauer, Tom Houston, Phil Konigsberg, Dominick Koo, Jim Lutschg, George and Ginny Mayer, Ed Miller, Gus Miller, Don and Pat Morris, Brigitte Nahmias, John O'Hara, Rick Richards, Russ Sciandra, Ira Sharenow, Susan Smith, Jim Smith, Eric Solberg, Wayne Stayskal, Ed Sweda, Charles Tate, Roger Valdez, Jeannie Weigum, Howard Wolinsky, and Rita Zemlock.

Supporting session documentation (OPTIONAL): If you have additional documentation that you believe is critical for reviewers to have in order to evaluate your submission (i.e. journal article, poster design), you may choose to upload that document here. (Word, PDF, .jpeg, or Excel files may be uploaded.: 305040-2-80782-27ab9bb7-806e-4cf0-8001-967905d7de40.docx

Learning Objective #1: As a result of attending this presentation, participants will be able to describe three major differences between grassroots activist anti-smoking strategies and health department tobacco control approaches.

Learning Objective #2: Participants will be able to explore the history of anti-smoking efforts in their own state or territory.

Learning Objective #3: Participants will be able to cite an example of a single individual whose efforts led to a beneficial tobacco control policy.