

AMWA American Medical Women's Association Inc.

465 GRAND STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10002 • TELEPHONES: (212) 477-3788, (212) 533-5104
REPRESENTING WOMEN IN MEDICINE SINCE 1915

CONSTANCE U. BATTLE, MD, *President*
CAROL DAVIS-GROSSMAN, *Executive Director*

October 15, 1986

Ms. Eleanor Smeal
President
National Organization of Women
Suite 800
1401 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Smeal:

As President of the American Medical Women's Association, a multi-issue national organization of female physicians three quarters of a century old, I would like to invite your organization to join ours in an effort to enlighten women about the malignant seductiveness of the tobacco industry.

The paucity of publicity in popular magazines of women's real health issues has perpetuated the false belief that controlling one's body is accomplished by blindly focusing on the breasts and reproductive organs, ignoring the so-called vital organs: the heart and lungs. Since the mortality rate of lung cancer in women has swept past that of breast cancer, and because heart attacks are also increasing dramatically, the cigarette, the causal factor of both, is clearly the number one enemy.

At our annual meeting in November 1985, we formulated a mission statement (enclosed) and established an antismoking task force. Our membership has been polled, documenting a wide range of antismoking intervention programs, to legislative work in support of bills to control the tobacco business, to participation in protest demonstrations against Virginia Slims (You've Come a Long Way, Baby!) tennis tournaments.

What efforts might our two organizations undertake together in order to maximize our accomplishments? What other women's groups could we approach to join this long ignored feminist issue?

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Thanks to you and your Board for a thoughtful consideration
of our invitation. Maybe we could show them that we've really
come a long way!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Constance U. Battle". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Constance U. Battle, M.D.
President

CUB:kml
Enclosure