



2015 - 2017
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Carbone
President
US

Tony Mok
Past President
Hong Kong

Giorgio Scagliotti
President Elect
Italy

David Gandara
Treasurer
US

Fred R. Hirsch
CEO
US

Michael Boyer
Australia

Laurie Gaspar
US

David Harpole
US

Norihiko Ikeda
Japan

Pasi Janne
US

Keith Kerr
UK

Francoise Mornex
France

Yuichiro Ohe
Japan

Solange Peters
Switzerland

Robert Pirker
Austria

Martin Reck
Germany

Miyako Satouchi
Japan

William Travis
US

Heather Wakelee
US

Yi-Long Wu
China

Dr. Michael Häupl, Mayor and Governor of Vienna
michael.haeupl@wien.gv.at

August 31, 2016

Dear Dr. Häupl,

The 17th World Conference on Lung Cancer (WCLC) of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) will take place in Vienna from December 4 to 7, 2016. The IASLC is the only global organization solely dedicated to the study of lung cancer, and includes more than 5,000 lung cancer specialists in over 100 countries.

Tobacco consumption causes respiratory and lung diseases, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, several cancers and cardiovascular diseases. In almost 90% of lung cancer patients the disease is related to active or environmental tobacco exposure. Hence, one of the main activities of the IASLC is prevention of this malignancy, and in particular, fighting the tobacco epidemic.

There is no longer any scientific debate that exposure to secondhand smoke from burning tobacco products cause diseases and premature deaths among nonsmokers. Secondhand smoke is essentially a source of indoor air pollution that can be prevented. Studies have shown that smokefree policies that prohibit smoking in public places, like bars and restaurants, help to improve air quality and the health of their employees and the general population. Based on these data, within the past decade most European countries have introduced smoking bans that prohibit smoking in all enclosed public places.

Austria is one of the last EU countries with only a partial smoking ban, allowing for several exemptions, which are no longer reasonable or acceptable. For example, in small, single-room hospitality industry enterprises the landlord still can choose to allow smoking. There is also a possibility of having smoking rooms, provided that smoke does not penetrate the general non-smoking area. However, several studies have demonstrated that non-smoking rooms adjacent to smoking rooms are contaminated with tobacco smoke. Austria is a popular tourist designation and visitors like those who will be attending the World Conference on Lung Cancer expect indoor public and hospitality facilities to be smoke-free.

The prevalence of smoking in Austria is high relative to many other EU countries, which accounts for its higher lung cancer rates. Adopting a comprehensive smoke-free policy is a proven way to discourage smoking and help the many smokers who wish to stop smoking.

The upcoming World Conference on Lung Cancer is the largest scientific event dedicated to lung cancer research. The more than 6,000 delegates to this conference are urging the Austrian government and its people to join with us in advocating for policies that promote health and prevent lung cancer and other smoking related diseases. As an organization we strongly endorse the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco

Control which urges governments to adopt policies that discourage cigarette use. These policies include support for higher taxes on tobacco products, help for smokers who wish to quit, comprehensive advertising and promotion bans of all tobacco products, product regulation including pack warnings, appropriate consumer information, mass media campaigns and comprehensive smoke-free policies.

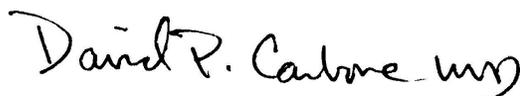
The delegates to the conference are aware of and concerned about Austrian tobacco regulations, which currently fail to provide effective protection from secondhand smoke exposure in public places. To this end, we would like to request that you consider asking for a voluntary ban on smoking in public places in Vienna during the IASLC World Conference on Lung Cancer. In addition to its health benefit, such a decision may result in increasing awareness of the Austrian society on the positive health effects of tobacco control and facilitate implementing the currently debated new tobacco law in Austria.

Thank you for considering our request. We welcome you and members of your government to attend our World Conference on Lung Cancer and would be pleased to schedule a meeting with you and your staff at a mutually convenient time before, during or after the conference. More information about the IASLC and details about the conference can be found at www.IASLC.org.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Pirker, MD
Congress President,
IASLC WCLC 2016



David P. Carbone, MD, PhD
President, IASLC



Fred R. Hirsch, MD, PhD
Chief Executive Officer, IASLC