



A Message from the President

To: All Employees, Volunteers, and Students at Upstate

Smoking at Upstate Medical University

July 28, 2004

Dear Colleague:

I wrote to you in March expressing my concern about smoking at Upstate and for the health issues created by smoking and exposure to second hand smoke. I asked for your assistance in upholding our smoking policy. I also suggested options to assist with quitting smoking.

I have talked with many people regarding smoking since then. Most of that discussion has been encouraging as it pertains to the desire to achieve a healthier environment for the well-being of everyone here at Upstate Medical University. In fact, I am convinced that now we need to take the next steps toward achieving a smoke-free Upstate.

My goal is to have a completely smoke-free environment at Upstate – no smoking within the buildings or on the grounds owned or leased by Upstate – beginning August 1, 2005.

Thus, beginning August 1, 2004 we will start the transition to achieve that goal. Initially, we will communicate with you to reinforce and achieve ongoing compliance with the existing smoking policy (smoking permitted only in designated areas). We will continue to meet with our union leadership to work together toward a revised policy and initiatives leading to a smoke free environment. Also, I will form a Committee for a Smoke-Free Upstate to champion this important initiative for Upstate. Among other things, I see that committee (1) recommending education programs (2) developing and overseeing smoke cessation programs, and (3) being a general advisor for issues that arise regarding smoking at Upstate.

Achieving a smoke-free environment is the right thing to do for our employees, patients, students, volunteers, and visitors. Also, this is squarely within the mission of Upstate, which is dedicated to preventing disease and improving health.

I will need everyone's help and support to achieve this goal. I am counting on you.

Sincerely,

Gregory L. Eastwood, MD
President

State University of New York



Upstate
Medical
University

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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