



ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS OF IRELAND



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10 years of the Workplace Smoking Ban in Ireland

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The Scientific and Moral Roar of the Celtic Tiger

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Ireland was the first and possibly least likely nation to adopt the world's first Clean-In-Door air law in March, 2004. This law protected the health of the most vulnerable of Society from lung cancer among healthy exposed non smokers and bar and restaurant employees as well as respiratory illness particularly among children. The law was the central element of the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control. Through this law the small country's contribution to global health became immeasurable. Irish action affirmed the ability of all nations to do the same despite fierce tobacco industry opposition. More importantly the action made real that the all of the articles of the FCTC could be implemented globally.

The roar of the Celtic Tiger was heard in every parliament and Congress throughout the world and was sufficient to counter the false messages of the tobacco industry with science, moral virtue, political leadership and concrete strategies for success. Ireland's contribution was precise and strategic than simply passing a law. It established clear guidelines for other nations to follow on how to foster social support, the importance of monitoring compliance with the law once passed, and the need for economic and scientific evaluation of benefits from Clean Indoor Air laws once enacted.

As the first nation, Ireland willingly providing technical assistance, support, training and research to every nation that asked. This contribution contributed to the majority of high income nations passing comprehensive Clean Indoor Air (CIA) laws over time. Yet, progress has been slower in low and middle income nations with some passing CIA laws but not implementing them.

This presentation will review how the Irish experience can be translated to all nations including the infrastructure needed to create the social and political will do so as well, methods for assuring compliance and research needs to prevent attempts to weaken a law.

The presentation will review adoption of CIA laws globally and critically assess actual compliance though presentation of air measurement studies from selective nations. Based on the Irish experience it is clear that regional and international corporation is needed and mechanism must be developed to foster multinational systems particularly for adoption and compliance.

As new challenges emerge in the 21st century such as the complaints of the multinational companies to the proposed EU directives backed by the US Trade Office, the scientific and moral



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roar of the Celtic Tiger maybe the single most important voice for protecting health in low and middle income nations from the new globalized tobacco authoritarianism that fails to value human life.