

Dear Reader,

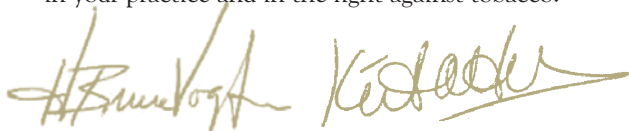
This special edition of *South Dakota Medicine* is devoted to the topics of both tobacco abuse and secondhand smoke and their effects on the health of our population.

The health problems related to direct tobacco use by our patients have been documented for many years. An increasing number of studies, however, now focus on the harms associated with exposure to secondhand smoke. Two recent studies, one from Helena, Montana,<sup>1</sup> and another from Scotland,<sup>2</sup> clearly demonstrate the dangers of secondhand smoke – both to smokers and nonsmokers.

The study from Scotland demonstrated that following a 10-month smoking ban, there was a 17 percent decrease in hospitalization for acute coronary syndrome. Sixty-seven percent of the decrease was in nonsmokers. As health care providers, not only must we urge our patients to discontinue or never begin smoking and to avoid secondhand smoke, but we also have an obligation to urge our lawmakers to pass smoke-free legislation.

This edition begins with a discussion by State Epidemiologist Dr. Lon Kightlinger on tobacco use by South Dakotans and its impact on their health. This is followed by a series of three articles on the topics of secondhand smoke and results of the Youth and Adult Tobacco surveys. Specific diseases related to the use of tobacco, including smokeless tobacco, are then discussed in a section of three articles. Treatment methodologies, including counseling, medications and acupuncture are covered in the next two articles. The edition concludes with a review of resources available to patients and their families and, finally, a discussion of anti-tobacco legislation.

We hope you enjoy this second special edition of *South Dakota Medicine* and that you find it to be a helpful resource in your practice and in the fight against tobacco.



H. Bruce Vogt, MD, and Keith Hansen, MD  
Co-Editors,  
*South Dakota Medicine*

REFERENCES

1. Sargent RP, et al. Reduced incidence of admissions for myocardial infarction associated with public smoking ban: before and after study. *BMJ*. 2004;382.
2. Pell JP, Haw S, Cobbe S, Newby DE, Pell AC, Fischbacher C et al. Smoke-free legislation and hospitalizations for acute coronary syndrome. *N Engl J Med*. 2008;359:482-91.

S P E C I A L E D I T I O N 2 0 1 0

THE BURDEN OF SOUTH DAKOTA'S  
FOUR MAJOR CANCERS

Colorectal - Female Breast - Lung - Prostate