Office of the President

UPDATED AND REVISED

TO: The Downstate Medical Center Community

FROM: John C. LaRosa, M.D.
President

SUBJECT: NYS Clean Air Act and DMC Policy on the Prohibition of Smoking in All Indoor Areas

DATE: January 21, 2009

Governor Pataki signed into law amendments to the New York State Public Health Law Article 13-E “Clean Indoor Air Act”, prohibiting smoking in all indoor areas of places of employment. The law, which became effective July 24, 2003, provides, in part, that “smoking shall mean the burning of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or any other matter or substance which contains tobacco and that smoking shall not be permitted” and “no person shall smoke in indoor areas of places of employment, general hospitals, and public universities and colleges”.

Therefore, it is the policy of Downstate Medical Center that smoking is prohibited in all indoor work areas in which you may be required to work, occupy, or frequent including rooms, offices, laboratory space, shops, bathrooms, cafeteria’s, lunchrooms, storage areas, hallways, stairways, elevators, parking garages, any other areas with a roof or other ceiling enclosure and state vehicles. This policy extends to all indoor areas of the University Hospital of Brooklyn, the Basic Science Building, the Health Education Building, the Student Center, DMC at Bay Ridge, 711 Parkside Avenue, the satellite clinical facilities located at 710 Parkside Avenue, 840 Lefferts Boulevard, the Midwood Family Practice Clinic, and the Bedford Stuyvesant Dialysis Center, the “temporary” structures on Lenox Road and East 34th Street, parking garages, 440 Lenox Road and the Resident Halls including their respective entrances, common areas, offices, hallways, stairways, elevators and bathrooms (i.e., all non-residential areas), and any future acquired indoor space owned and/or occupied by DMC.

Violators of the law are subject to civil penalties and, as appropriate, discipline for violating DMC’s workplace smoking policy. Mr. Tom Dugan, Chief of University Police, who is designated as our Clean Indoor Air Act Agent, is responsible for informing individuals smoking in an area in which smoking is not permitted that they are in violation of the NYS law and DMC’s smoking ban. If you become aware of such violations, please inform University Police at 718-270-2626. Any related questions or concerns you may have may also be directed to them.

State University of New York Downstate Medical Center
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Our continuing goal is to promote, achieve and maintain a healthier and smoke-free environment for the well being of all of our employees, students, patients and visitors. Should you need or wish assistance with smoking cessation, I encourage you to contact our Employee and Student Health Services at 718-270-2477, our Employee Assistance Program at 718-270-1489 or the New York State Quit-Smoking Quitline at 1-866-NY-QUITs (866-697-8487). Information is also available online at the New York State Smoker's QuitSite at www.nysmokefree.com or the New York City Department of Health at www.nyc.gov/health.