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Presented by: Helena Chapman, MD, Graduate Student

Novel Anti-smoking Health Communication Strategies in Eighteen Communities in the Dominican Republic

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Keywords: anti-tobacco, prevention, communication strategies

Objective: Tobacco use increases morbidity and mortality in multiple organ systems, causing six million annual deaths. Since World No Tobacco Day is celebrated on May 31st, the purpose of this intervention was to implement novel communication strategies for anti-tobacco messages to educate citizens to reduce smoking utilization in the Dominican Republic (DR).

Methods: Fifty medical students from six DR medical schools developed the first two-week national anti-smoking health project in support of World No Tobacco Day activities. Team focused on collaborations among universities, local community, national and international settings. They explored media and publications to promote the use of social media for health communication strategies.

Results: Fifty medical students organized a national anti-smoking campaign to educate more than 7,500 citizens of all ages of the hazards of smoking tobacco and exposure to secondhand smoking in seven cities and eleven rural DR communities. Cost-effective communication strategies were used in local universities (poster displays, university seminars) and multiple local (health counseling, educational pamphlets), national (radio, television) and global (social media) communities to reduce smoking utilization in the DR. Student leaders evaluated this cost-effective program as enhancing excellent teamwork, developing high-quality, low-cost health educational materials, and disseminating the anti-tobacco message through social media.

Conclusion: This anti-smoking campaign enhanced interdisciplinary teamwork through the development of innovative health communication strategies for the DR population. Health professionals may use this model to develop future health communication campaigns in developing countries.

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Presented by: Janet Crespo González, Graduate Student

Relationship Between Occupational Hazardous Noise Exposure and Increased Risk of Cardiovascular Disease

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Keywords: Occupational hazardous noise exposure, Cardiovascular disease

Objective: Evaluate if hazardous noise exposure can increase the risk of cardiovascular disease.

Methods: For this investigation was conducted a literature review from papers published on scientific journals from 2004 to 2012. Papers were identified by systematic search on the online data bases: Pub Med, Scopus, Ovid, and Science Direct.

Results: The results presented by different authors cited show a statistical significance level that demonstrated the increased risk of hypertension and cardiovascular disease.

Conclusion: The analysis leads to the conclusion that exposure to occupational noise is associated with higher risks of cardiovascular disease.

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