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**Ireland Smoking Ban Reduces Mortality, Serves as Model for Other European Countries**

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA** (Dec. 5, 2016) — A 2004 smoking ban in Ireland has shown a positive impact on public health and has served as a model for other European countries to follow, said Dr. Luke Clancy of the TobaccoFree Research Institute in Dublin, Ireland. Clancy’s talk was part of a tobacco prevention theme today at the **17th World Conference on Lung Cancer (WCLC) hosted by the International Association of the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) in Vienna, Austria.**

Despite the difficulty of showing long-term public health benefits from a smoking ban, Clancy reported that the planning and investment paid off, as the national Irish smoking ban was associated with reductions in early mortality. Studies on the effects of the smoking ban demonstrated a 13 percent decrease in all-cause mortality, a 26 percent reduction in ischemic heart disease, a 32 percent reduction in stroke, and a 38 percent reduction in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

The Tobacco Industry claimed that environmental tobacco smoke was not harmful to the health of the public. The Irish government rejected this claim and instead implemented a comprehensive workplace smoking ban that included bars, restaurants, bingo halls, and casinos.

Since introducing its comprehensive national smoke-free legislation, many European countries have followed Ireland’s lead. Clancy reported that all 27 EU member state countries have initiated some form of a smoke-free strategy. To date, 14 EU member states have enacted laws which ban smoking in all indoor workplaces including bars, restaurants, and clubs. However, several countries with significant populations, such as Germany and Poland, have only limited smoke-free laws.

Despite this progress, the prevalence of smoking in Ireland is 18.5 percent. The prevalence of smoking in Europe as a whole remains at approximately 29 percent of the adult population, and seems to be increasing among females in some European countries.

“Ireland hopes to be Tobacco Free by 2025. Full implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention for Tobacco Control (FCTC) recommendations may not be enough to achieve this in Ireland.

“For much of the world the challenge will be to implement many of the World Health Organization recommendations on pricing and taxation, reduction in the use of tobacco sponsorship of events, overcoming



the influence of the Tobacco Industry, and a commitment to smoking cessation treatment. These initiatives are keys to future progress on tobacco control," Dr. Clancy said.

**About the WCLC:**

The WCLC is the world's largest meeting dedicated to lung cancer and other thoracic malignancies, attracting more than 6,000 researchers, physicians, and specialists from more than 100 countries. The goal is to increase awareness, collaboration, and understanding of lung cancer, and to help participants implement the latest developments across the globe. Organized under the theme of "Together Against Lung Cancer," the conference will cover a wide range of disciplines and unveil several research studies and clinical trial results. For more information, visit <http://wclc2016.iaslc.org/>.

**About the IASLC:**

The International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) is the only global organization dedicated to the study of lung cancer. Founded in 1974, the association's membership includes more than 5,000 lung cancer specialists in over 100 countries. Visit [www.iaslc.org](http://www.iaslc.org) for more information.

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