

Featured Nurse Leader

Linda Sarna, RN, DNSc, FAAN

Linda Sarna, RN, DNSc, FAAN, is an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing, University of California, Los Angeles. She has been involved in shaping oncology nursing as a specialty and in developing one of the first oncology Master's programs at the UCLA School of Nursing. Dr. Sarna's research program in quality of life and lung cancer compelled her to become more active in tobacco control. She has published numerous articles related to smoking as a women's health issue and her research on quality of life and lung cancer has had a special focus on women and lung cancer.



Dr. Sarna helped to form the Nursing Coalition for Tobacco Control. She has been actively involved in advocating increased nursing involvement in tobacco control nationally and internationally. As part of this coalition, she has presented educational programs regarding the nurses role in tobacco control throughout the United States. Additionally she has been the coauthor of three position statements regarding the nurse's role in tobacco control for the American Nurses' Association and one for the Oncology Nursing Society. Also, she wrote a fact sheet for nurses and tobacco for the International Union for Cancer Control, World Health Organization.

On a very recent note, this past August, 1997, Dr. Sarna presented two papers at the 10th World Conference on Tobacco or Health held in Beijing, China. Her papers focused on the many nursing activities in the United States and on caring for the victims of tobacco-related disease, specifically, people with lung cancer. She was one of only a few nurses among the 2000 attendees at the conference, and coauthored a resolution for a global partnership of nurses in tobacco control with a nurse from Sweden, which will become part of future conference agenda. The next conference will be held in the year 2000 in Chicago, Illinois.

Dr Sarna was involved in the review and dissemination of the new AHCPR [now Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)] Smoking Cessation Clinical Practice Guideline. As part of the American Cancer Society, she has been actively involved in the legislative changes affecting smoking in California.

Dr Sarna recently received the "Light" award from the National Women's Political Caucus for her advocacy efforts surrounding tobacco and lung cancer as a women's health issue. She was invited to a White House luncheon honoring women in health care in 1996 and provided information to the Clinton administration regarding nurses and tobacco control.

Articles of interest published by Dr. Sarna are:

- Sarna, L. (1995) Smoking behaviors of women after diagnosis with lung cancer. Image, 27, 35-41.
- Sarna, L., Lindsey, A.M., Dean, H., Brecht, M., & McCorkle, R. (1994) Weight change and lung cancer: relationships with symptom distress, functional status, and smoking. Research in Nursing & Health, 17, 371-379.
- Sarna, L. (1995) Lung cancer: the overlooked womens' health priority. Cancer Practice, 3, 13-18.

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