University of Massachusetts Medical School

Office of the Chancellor
55 Lake Ave North, S1-340
Worcester, MA 01655-0002 USA
508.856.8100 (office) | 508.856.8181 (fax)
Michael.Collins@umassmed.edu

Dear President Fierer,

In the coming days, you will be receiving a formal invitation from Tobacco Free Mass (TFM) to attend its symposium entitled, “Becoming Tobacco-Free!” This symposium, which is open to all Massachusetts colleges and universities, will be held at the University of Massachusetts Medical School on October 25, 2013. Our medical school, with its special public mission and commitment to the Commonwealth, is pleased to partner with TFM by hosting the event.

With approximately 25% of full-time college students reporting current smoking in 2010, colleges and universities have a tremendous opportunity to prevent tobacco use and nicotine addiction by implementing tobacco-free campus policies. Such policies create optimal learning environments by protecting the health of all members of the campus community from secondhand smoke exposure and by promoting healthy campus norms where tobacco use is not socially accepted.

I am writing to encourage you to send a team of two campus decision makers (perhaps the Provost, Dean, and/or Director of Health) and one student leader to participate in this timely and important event on October 25th from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm. The day is organized such that your team members will learn about: the benefits of and steps to implementing a tobacco-free campus policy; resources available to assist in implementing a policy; and strategies to address challenges and other considerations specific to your campus community. We are fortunate and delighted to have Dr. Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary of Health for the Department of Health and Human Services, as the keynote speaker. A panel of experts will present in the morning, followed by lunch and an afternoon breakout session.

Please do not hesitate to contact Tami Gouveia, Executive Director of Tobacco Free Mass, at 978-844-6870 or tami.gouveia@cancer.org with any questions you might have regarding the symposium.

I look forward to seeing your institution represented at the symposium.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Collins, MD
Senior Vice President for the Health Sciences &
Chancellor, UMass Medical School