

Western Wisconsin Working for Tobacco-Free Living

www.W3TFL.org

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Quarterly Coalition Meeting!

Hello everyone; W3TFL will be meeting quarterly in 2016. The dates are listed below so mark your calendars!

- **Thursday September 15th 10:00 AM**
- Thursday December 15th 10:00 AM

**The meeting will be held at the Polk County Public Health Department. 100 Polk County Plaza Balsam Lake WI 54810*

E-Cigs Are Going Tobacco-Free With Synthetic Nicotine

It's hard to imagine, these days, selling a product by calling it synthetic. "A lot of people kind of give you the weird eye," says Edward Uy, vice president at SQN, the first vaping company to debut liquids with lab-made synthetic nicotine. Every other tobacco product in human history, including virtually every other vaping liquid, makes use of natural nicotine from tobacco plants.

But tobacco also happens to be, if anything, the prime example that natural is not necessarily better. As decades of lawsuits and ads featuring gross black lungs have tanked tobacco's reputation, one small corner of the vaping industry senses an opening. E-cigarettes vaporize flavored nicotine-infused liquids: no burning tobacco leaves, none of the health impacts of smoke. That nicotine can theoretically come from anywhere. And synthetic nicotine—same molecular formula as the natural version, just as addictive—just might not fall under the Food and Drug Administration's vaping regulations coming down in August.

That's why Ron Tully started Next Generation Labs, a small company that makes what it calls "tobacco-free nicotine" for vaping liquid companies like SQN. Tully envisions a world in which people use synthetic nicotine the way they drink booze or dab hash oil—without the black cloud of tobacco's reputation hanging over the chemically altered fun. Take it from Tully. He spent over 15 years working in the tobacco industry before getting into lab-made nicotine.

Read More at: <http://www.wired.com/2016/06/vaping-industry-wants-go-post-tobacco-synthetic-nicotine/>

Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) Presentations

If your organization/group is interested in learning more about other tobacco products (OTPs), please contact Mary. We would love to come and do a presentation to spread the word!

Family doctors don't always screen smokers for lung cancer!

(Reuters Health) - Many family physicians don't believe lung cancer screening can reduce deaths from these tumors, and some don't offer tests even to longtime smokers, a U.S. survey suggests. Nearly all agreed that early cancer detection is more likely with low-dose computed tomography (CT) than with traditional x-rays. But only 41 percent believe low-dose CT scans in asymptomatic individuals can reduce deaths from lung cancer, the survey found.

Even for a 60-year-old patient with a long history of smoking, 12% of family physicians said they would not recommend any screening and another 9% said they would suggest only an x-ray.

Study author Jan Eberth, a public health researcher at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, and colleagues note in the journal *Cancer* that the American Academy of Family Physicians has said there isn't enough evidence yet to recommend or discourage these tests. But the government-backed U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), along with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services and "multiple professional societies and organizations," do support the use of CT scans for high-risk patients including some current and former smokers, the authors note.

The researchers analyzed data from surveys completed by 101 family physicians in South Carolina in 2015. Most of the doctors were white, male and had graduated from medical school at least a decade ago. When asked about the risks of low-dose CT scans, 88% expressed concern about unnecessary diagnostic procedures, and about half said they worried about exposing patients to stress and anxiety or radiation.

About half would screen a 70-year-old former smoker who quit more than 20 years ago – a situation when groups like the USPSTF and Medicare recommend against it. In another situation where screening isn't recommended – a 50-year-old nonsmoker with 30 years married to a smoker – 22% of family physicians said they would offer screening.

The survey was started in 2015 before Medicare changed its payment policies to cover CT scans for lung cancer screening and counseling sessions discuss test with patients, Eberth noted. One limitation of the survey was that researchers changed it later in the year to follow up with participants and ask about how Medicare coverage might influence screening decisions, the authors note.

"Primary care physicians may be overwhelmed with the amount of new information required to understand the data regarding lung cancer screening, potential benefits, and with discussing risks," Dr. Ticiana Leal, a researcher at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health who wasn't involved in the study, said by email.

"Chest x-rays for screening is a failed strategy," said Dr. Vinay Prasad, a researcher at Oregon Health and Science University who wasn't involved in the study.

"Low-dose CT screening for lung cancer showed a strong benefit in one randomized trial, though there are a number of caveats and nuances there that may give one pause," Prasad added in an email. "At a minimum, the potential benefits and potential limitations should be discussed with appropriate patients as part of shared decision making."

By Lisa Rapaport

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-lungcancer-screening-idUSKCN0Z01ZK>

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