

Overesp-Kottke

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Dr. Edward Frohlich Vice President for Academic Affairs Ochsner Medical Foundation 1516 Jefferson Highway New Orleans, LA 70121

Dear Dr. Frohlich:

This letter is in recommendation of Dr. Thomas Kottke for the Alton Ochsner Award on Smoking and Health. Dr. Kottke's leadership of the profession in research, practice and policy on tobacco smoking is clear, visible and consistent. He brings the highest academic skills to researches and public concerns about smoking policy. His training background is solid, in anthropology, internal medicine and cardiology along with the Robert Wood Johnson scholarship, a degree in epidemiology and a post doctoral fellowship in this Division, all of which he brings to his efforts in smoking.

His research includes the description of smoking patterns in populations, smoking and other risk factors in the prediction of cardiovascular and other chronic diseases, individual group and community strategies at preventing or at cessation of smoking, and a major effort in professional education and behavioral strategies for doctors helping smokers.

With this academic base and the active researches at the community level, Dr. Kottke has used his knowledge and understanding to forward the education of the physician and the patient in reduction of smoking as a personal health risk. In his work for the U.S. Prevention Task Force, he has taken national leadership in public policy and pointed out effective strategies to enhance preventive practice, policy and regulations to help a more informed public and profession reduce the health risks due to smoking.

Thus, Dr. Kottke brings together sound training, highly credible research, and effective practice and public strategies to deal with the major issue of smoking and health. Despite his youth, I believe that his impact in this field is widely felt and makes him a strong candidate for the Alton Ochsner Award.

Sincerely

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

Professor and Director

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cc: Dr. Henry McIntosh