



## **ECONOMIC BURDEN OF SMOKING EXCEEDS \$18 BILLION**

**PRESS CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 15, 2014**

**THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT  
JOSHUA ROOM  
1000 N. ALAMEDA STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

State and Los Angeles county public health officials will release a statewide and county-by-county analysis of the substantial public health costs and lost productivity caused by smoking.

The report is the first comprehensive analysis on the economic burden of smoking to California, its counties and to smokers themselves in more than a decade.

The report shows that despite declines in smoking rates over the last 10 years, smoking remains a leading cause of preventable death in California and carries an economic price tag of more than \$18 billion. Los Angeles and other California counties shoulder much of that burden through higher health care costs and the related impacts from lost wages and premature death.

### **Speakers:**

- Dr. Michael Ong, Chair of California's Tobacco Education and Research Oversight Committee (TEROC) and UCLA Associate Professor of Medicine
- Dr. Paul Simon, Division Director, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, LA County Department of Public Health
- Dr. Wendy Max, Co-Author, UCSF Professor of Social and Behavioral Science and Director of the UC San Francisco Institute for Health and Aging
- Dr. Hai-Yen Sung, Co-Author, UC San Francisco Professor of Health Economics

*Free on-site parking is available at The California Endowment parking lot on Bauchet St (off of Alameda, one block north of Cesar Chavez).*