



Jean King

Director of Tobacco control for Cancer Research UK (CR-UK), United Kingdom

Biography

With a background in biochemistry (1976, Sussex University 2:1) and tropical human nutrition (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (1979), Jean King has lived and worked in the West Indies and Nigeria, where she lectured on nutrition and was involved in research on the use of oral rehydration for childhood diarrheal disease and on promoting the consumption of local legumes respectively.

On her return to the UK, she continued to research tropical childhood nutrition and then worked in science policy at the former Agricultural and Food Research Council.

Jean King has worked for Cancer Research UK (CR-UK) for twenty-four years: first as scientific secretary where her role was in science policy and Institutes' funding; then as CRC Director of Education, managing the education and psychosocial research programme and developing the charity's strategy on cancer prevention, especially in relation to diet, sun exposure and tobacco control. While Director of Education, she completed a post-graduate diploma in Medical Education at the University of Dundee by distance learning. Her next role was Director of behavioural research and tobacco control holding overall responsibility for the population and behavioural research portfolio, and for promoting effective tobacco control policies and policy research, both within the organisation and externally at the UK and international level.

Finally, as Director of tobacco control, she has continued to work on tobacco policy at UK and EU levels. She developed the Code of Practice on Tobacco Industry Funding for Research, which prohibits those in receipt of tobacco funds from receiving CR-UK grants and established the Tobacco Advisory Group that supports research and advocacy in key policy areas. With the American Cancer Society, she set up the FCTC advocacy awards and the Africa Tobacco Control Regional Initiative. With other founding members, she helped establish the EU Smokefree Partnership that advocates within the European Institutions for effective tobacco control and non-interference by tobacco companies.

Within the UK, she was involved in the tobacco advertising ban campaign in the 1990s and, more recently, with the Smokefree Action coalition and CR-UK's tobacco, press, parliamentary and campaigns teams, have worked to achieve comprehensive smokefree legislation and tobacco control measures in the Health Bill (England) 2009 that removed vending machines and point of sale displays in large shops (small shops to

follow in 2015). The Tobacco Advisory Group supports policy and advocacy work in Scotland, NI and Wales. Currently, we are lobbying for the standardised packaging of tobacco products across the UK.

She was vice-chair of the ASH London board for many years and a member of various steering groups and committees, and have presented at many conferences – in particular, campaigning for isolation of the tobacco industry by researchers, journals and funding bodies, and for greater and well-coordinated international funding for tobacco control in low-resource countries.

In May 2012, she was awarded a WHO World No Tobacco Day award for her work to prevent tobacco industry interference, and in November 2012, she was honoured with an honorary doctorate from the University of Stirling in recognition of her contribution to the research output of the university and her commitment to international cancer prevention and to fighting the tobacco epidemic.