VOTE 'YES' ON QUESTION 1
Medical Center leadership seeks employees' support of Question 1 on Election Day

The executive leadership and 10 leading physicians of the School of Medicine, Boston University Medical Center Hospital and Boston City Hospital are urging employees to support a smoking-prevention referendum, Question 1, on the ballot, on Tuesday, Nov. 3. This measure proposes that the state tobacco excise tax be increased by 25 cents per pack and that the proceeds generated be used to support youth health-education programs.

Increasing cigarette prices has proven to reduce tobacco use, especially among youth, in California. There, a measure similar to the Massachusetts proposal has decreased tobacco consumption in that state by 19 percent since 1988.

The goal of the Massachusetts proposal is to reduce the enormous burden of tobacco-related disease in society, and generate revenue for smoking prevention and other health efforts.

"We are hoping employees can make a strong stand in support of this critical public-health initiative," said School of Medicine Dean Aram V. Chobanian.

The American Cancer Society, the Massachusetts Medical Society and Blue Cross/Blue Shield are amongst the many organizations sponsoring this initiative through a coalition called The Massachusetts Coalition for a Healthy Future.