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### Disclosure of Financial Interests

The authors have no financial interests to disclose.

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## 2009 Tar Wars Rhode Island Statewide Poster Contest

At the Woodlawn Community Center in Pawtucket, RI, on May 9, 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from more than 25 Rhode Island elementary schools competed in the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Tar Wars Rhode Island Statewide Poster Contest. Olivia Houston (The Pennfield School, Portsmouth) won the top prize, an all-expenses paid trip to the National Tar Wars competition in Washington, DC. Bianca Martin (Fallon Memorial School, Pawtucket) won second-prize, a \$75 gift certificate to the Providence Place Mall. Olivia DeAngelis (R. C. LaPerche School, Smithfield) won third prize, a \$50 gift certificate to the Providence Place Mall.

The judges included Dave Davignon, coordinator at the Woodlawn Community Center; Dr. Vera DePalo, President-Elect of the Medical Society; Dr. Patricia Flanagan, Board Member of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Amy McIntyre, Board Member of the Rhode Island Academy of Family Physicians; and Barbara Morse Silva, Channel 10 News Reporter. The Rhode Island Academy of Family Physicians, the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Rhode Island Medical Society Foundation, and Woodlawn Community Center continued to support this educational program.

The American Academy of Family Physicians developed Tar Wars in 1988. It is designed to teach children to think analytically about tobacco advertising, help them make informed choices, and resist peer pressure. Each year, RIMS member physicians volunteer their time to visit elementary schools, where they involve up to 2800 pupils in the program. "Having been a part of Tar Wars Rhode Island since its inception, I have seen first-hand the powerful impact this program has on children. From their classroom participation to their enthusiasm in creating unique poster designs, students are able to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it to their lives," states Arthur Frazzano, MD, chairperson of Tar Wars Rhode Island.

Much of the success is due to the commitment of the physician presenters. For anyone interested in participating in the 2010 Tar Wars program, contact Catherine Norton at 528-3286. Volunteer presenters are always needed, and no experience is necessary.

