

## TOBACCO POLICY RESEARCH CENTERS

In line with a major Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP) goal to support research to inform public policy that benefits California's diverse populations, TRDRP is pleased to support three multi-disciplinary, collaborative policy research centers across California, each with a unique mission.

### Center for Tobacco and the Environment (CTE)

Based at San Diego State University (SDSU), CTE's mission is "to protect indoor and outdoor environments from persistent and toxic tobacco product pollutants." Established in 2022, the Center received TRDRP funding in 2024. Their primary community partner is SAY (Social Advocates for Youth) San Diego, a nonprofit focused on achieving opportunity, equity, and well-being for all San Diegans. CTE also works with other organizations representing underrepresented communities, businesses, local and tribal governments, environmental organizations, and more. Three focal areas include exposure to thirdhand smoke, restorative practices in schools, and tobacco product waste. Dr. Georg Matt is the Principal Investigator for this Center.

### Nicotine and Cannabis Policy Center (NCPC)

Part of UC Merced's Health Sciences Research Institute (HSRI), NCPC was first funded by TRDRP in 2018, with a mission "to gather, understand, and promote the thoughts and feelings of rural California residents on current tobacco and cannabis policy," particularly in the San Joaquin Valley. Partnering with public health departments of the 11 counties in the valley and other organizations, NCPC has established essential infrastructure to support tobacco control activities in the region. These include biannual community-academic workshops, a citizen scientist training program, and a robust undergraduate internship program that provides critical personnel support for six counties, which have made remarkable improvements in tobacco control indices. Dr. Irene H. Yen is now the Principal Investigator for this Center, while Dr. Arturo Durazo is the Director.

### Tobacco Cessation Policy Research Center (TCPRC)

Housed at UC Davis's Comprehensive Cancer Center (UCDCCC), TCPRC's mission is "to enhance health care access, promote excellence in healthcare delivery, facilitate community engagement, and achieve equity in health plan coverage by building capacity for tobacco cessation." Key partners include the American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), UCLA Health, and UC Center Sacramento (UCCS), a UC-systemwide program for public policy teaching, research, and public service. The Greater Sacramento Smoke and Tobacco-Free Coalition is an important partner for local policy activities. TCPRC's work will help bridge the silos between tobacco cessation treatment and public health policy. Dr. Elisa Tong is the Principal Investigator and Director for this Center.

*If you would like to know more about any of these topics or have questions about other commercial tobacco control topics, please contact [trdrp@ucop.edu](mailto:trdrp@ucop.edu)*

"[TRDRP's annual funding cycle takes] too long to generate research for policy that's in discussion 'right now.' Policy research needs to be more rapid."

– Dr. Tracy Richmond McKnight,  
TRDRP Director

## OVERVIEW

*Each center includes the following cores as part of their operations:*

- ✦ **RAPID RESPONSE PROJECTS:** To quickly react to time-sensitive policy needs, each center must be able to support rapid response research, conducted in collaboration with community partners.
- ✦ **TRAINING, CAPACITY BUILDING & PILOTS:** Centers train, mentor, and provide funds and research opportunities to emerging researchers, postdoctoral fellows, undergraduate, and graduate students.
- ✦ **COMMUNITY INPUT & DISSEMINATION:** Each center must actively engage partners, including advocacy organizations, community members, policymakers, and priority populations. After research is finished, centers must disseminate the findings back to community and other key stakeholders.
- ✦ **ADMINISTRATION:** Each center provides infrastructure support for research and training activities..