

## PLENARY SESSION 3

### Smoking and smoke free nightlife

**Maurice Mulcahy**  
Environmental Health, Ireland

Many smokers will say they enjoy smoking a cigarette when having a drink. However even when a few people are smoking within a hospitality venue many people can be involuntarily exposed to secondhand smoke and to the associated risks of cardiovascular disease, lung cancer and asthma. Therefore making a decision about the type of smoking policy to adopt in hospitality venues (smoking allowed/smoking restricted/smoking prohibited) is more than just a matter of accommodating different customer preferences – it is about the degree of health protection that is to be provided, especially for hospitality workers. Understanding the impact of secondhand smoke exposure levels on health risks is therefore a vital part of the decision making process.

This presentation will discuss research on secondhand smoke exposure levels in various types of hospitality settings, with different smoking policies and will discuss the relative benefits of these policies on reducing risk. It will draw on the findings of research from Ireland, the first country to go 'smoke free' and from around the Globe. It should be of interest to politicians, policy makers and publicans alike.