that support this statement. Indeed, the average respiratory care service in an acute care setting operates 7-days-a-week, 24-h-a-day. Many hospital administrators and medical directors have opted to invest more clinical responsibilities in respiratory care services because of their service hours. This provides a greater degree of access to services without necessarily adding additional costs by hiring more staff.

Other institutions have elected to invest responsibility for intubation in the RCPs and have met with success. While the American Association for Respiratory Care certainly does not challenge the contention of the authors regarding the suitability of paramedics to perform this function in their institution, we do believe their success need not come at the expense of RCPs, especially in light of the fact that the two reasons given by the authors for RCPs being unsuitable for this responsibility are, to our knowledge, not supported with factual evidence. If the authors have evidence demonstrating that RCPs are not trained to perform intubation and that RCPs are unwilling to work shifts other than the standard day shift, then the American Association for Respiratory Care would like to review the data, because these claims run counter to our review of respiratory care education programs and the average staffing patterns in respiratory care service departments in hospitals.

Trudy J. Watson, RRT, 1995 President, American Association for Respiratory Care, Dallas

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To the Editor:

We appreciate the thoughtful comments and interest of Ms. Watson in our article entitled, "Endotracheal Intubation by Paramedics During In-Hospital CPR" (CHEST 1995; 107:1655-61); we agree that the availability of qualified individuals to perform intubation during in-hospital cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is difficult in many areas. We would like to respond to her comments and areas of concern.

Nicotine Is Hazardous to Your Heart

To the Editor:

We read with interest the case report by Ottervang et al (CHEST 1995; 107:1765-6) entitled "Acute Myocardial Infarction..."