Scientific Integrity: implications of tobacco industry involvement in the conduct of research

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The tobacco industry and the scientific community: internal documents

- tobacco industry has had long-standing relations with the scientific community
- release of internal memos in 1998
- Attorneys General of 46 states sign the master settlement agreement with the nation's seven major tobacco industry organizations
- Industry strategy to recruit scientists to promote a public relations agenda regarding health effects and secondhand smoke

## Scientific Integrity: Is Public Health Compromised by Tobacco Industry Affiliations?

- Failure to disclose the tobacco industry's role in research and inadequate disclosure of industry financial ties
- Two case studies
  - The "Japanese Spousal Study"
  - James Enstrom and the American Cancer Society's Cancer Prevention Study (CPS I)

#### Methods

- Legacy Tobacco Documents Library, University of California, San Francisco. (www.legacy.library.ucsf.edu)
- Documents provided by U.S. tobacco companies as required by the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement 27+ million documents
- Search terms:
  - Hirayama Study
  - Japanese Spousal Study
  - ETS
  - Meta-analysis
  - Enstrom, Kabat, CIAR
  - CPS I, CPS II
  - Womble CarlyleShook, Hardy and Bacon

#### The Hirayama Study

- 1981, Takeshi Hirayama publishes a cohort study examining the effect of passive smoking among nonsmoking wives of smokers in Japan (BMJ)
- wives of heavy smokers had an up to 2-fold risk of developing lung cancer compared to wives of nonsmokers
- Hirayama study: most frequently cited study in regulatory proceedings on the U.S EPA risk assessment of passive smoking
- The political influence of Hirayama's study motivates the industry to disprove Hirayama's conclusions

## The tobacco industry's response: the "Japanese Spousal Study"

- Japanese Principal Investigators: Honorary Principal Investigators
- Tobacco industry scientist Chris Proctor directs study but his contribution is never disclosed
- CIAR-Center for Indoor Air Research: Tobacco-sponsored research foundation funds project
- Ghost Authorship

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## CIAR: Center for Indoor Air Research

- foundation funded by the tobacco industry to support studies related to indoor air research, created in 1988
- mission was to fund high-quality objective research related to indoor air; maintained that they were an independent organization
- CIAR operated as a cover organization to promote tobacco industry agendas for scientific inquiry

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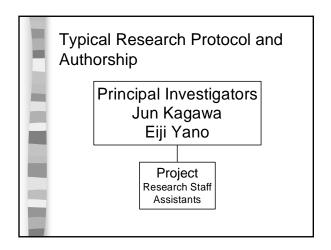
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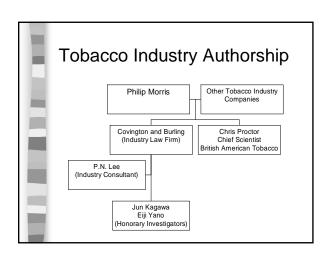
Publishing the Japanese Spousal Study

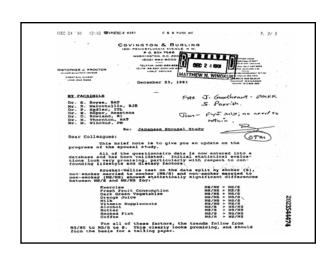
- Two grant proposals
- Industry modifies the original proposal submitted by Japanese investigators
- Industry instates project management of the study to their lawyers, Covington and Burling

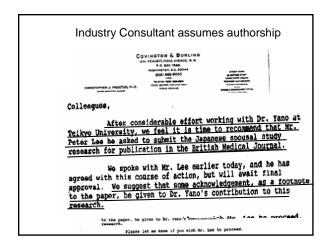
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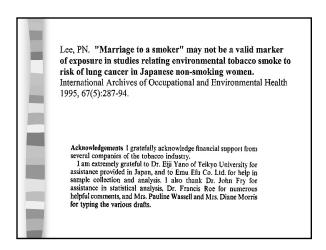
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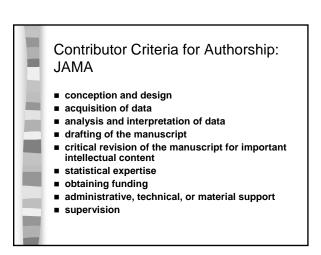




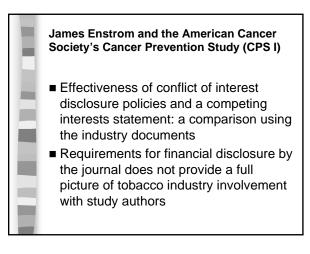




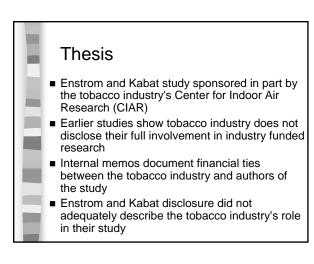


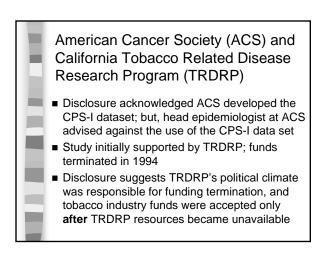


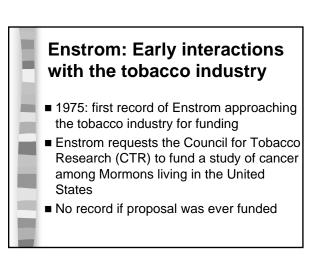
## Conclusion Tobacco industry goal: credible peer-reviewed publication Authorship standards disregarded in the process Calls into question the quality of the research

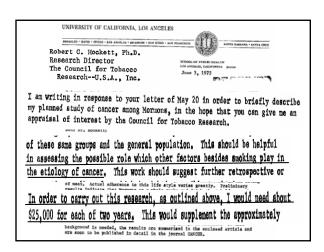


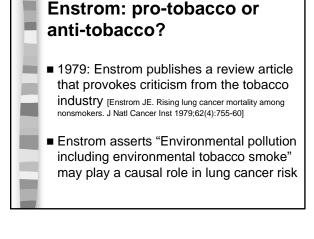
# ■ "Environmental tobacco smoke and tobacco related mortality in a prospective study of Californians, 1960 – 1998." James Enstrom, Geoffry Kabat; May 2003, BMJ ■ American Cancer Society cohort data circa 1959 (CPS-1 data set) ■ Concluded secondhand smoke does not increase the risk of lung cancer or heart disease

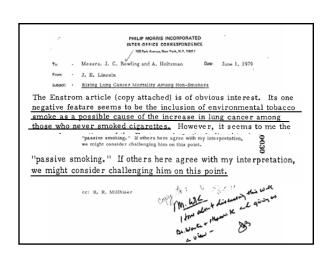












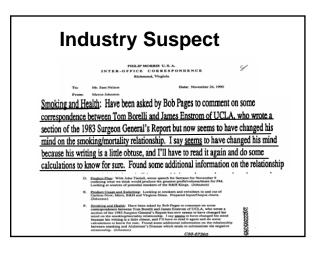


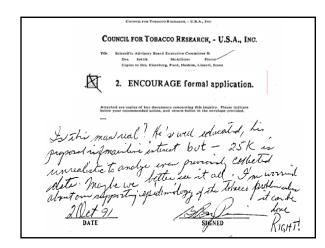
## Developing a relationship with the tobacco industry: CIAR

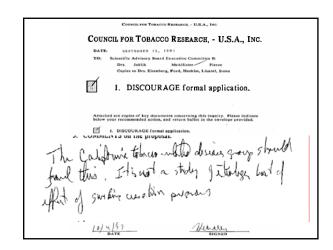
PHILIP MORRIS

Regarding your inquiry about research funds,
Philip Morris does not usually fund research projects.
However, Philip Morris does support two independent
research foundations; the Center of Tobacco Research
and the Center of Indoor Air Research. If you like, I
can provide you with the appropriate addresses so that
you can apply to these organizations directly. If you
have any further questions or if you would like to
share your research ideas with me, please call.

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## Strengthening the relationship with the tobacco industry

- 1997: Enstrom submits a proposal entitled "Relationship of low levels of active smoking to mortality" for funding to Phillip Morris Scientific Research Review Committee (SRRC)
- Enstrom states "level of trust must be developed...commitment [needed] on your part to compete against the epidemiologic data and opinions that already exist regarding the health effects of ETS..." [2075873003]

#### Minimizing University Oversight

Proposed Research on the RELATIONSHIP OF LOW LEVELS OF ACTIVE SMOKING TO MORTALITY

submitted to
Philip Morris Research Center

Much of the methodology for the research done for this project can be used for the additional proposed research on passive smoking to be funded by the Center for Indoor Air Research.

The most appropriate means of funding needs to be determined, but an unrestricted gift to Dr. James E. Enstrom / UCLA with mutual understanding/trust would minimize University restrictions and eliminate overhead costs.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Obtain new results from four major epidemiologic cohorts on the relationship of mortality from lung cancer and other smoking-related causes to low levels of active smoking in order to assess the dose-response relationship.

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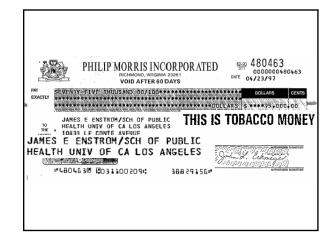
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have to be worked out.

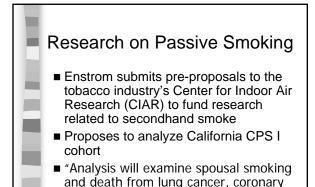
The segistant will obtain the cause of death (if not shready available) by searches in
national data basiss.

The and of the released proposal death with possible further research to be funded

Summarizing: The amount of money asked for seems rather high when considering
the work proposed. The outcome, most probably, will not add much new scientific
information. The applicant seems to have good connections/resources which might
be useful in the future for other issues.

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review subjects have changed their stroking habits up to 1994. The inherent crack of
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heart disease, and all causes"

#### CIAR votes to fund CPS I analysis ■ CIAR board discussions re: Enstrom and Kabat; "the possibility of their collaboration"

- [May, 1997] ■ The CIAR board votes to fund passive smoking proposal [November 1997]
- The proposal for the CPS I analysis was funded for \$525,000 from June 1, 1998 through May 31, 2001 [November 1997]

#### 'Flawed Science'—but good scientists

ental Tobacco Smoke and Mortality Among CPS I (J. E. Enstrom)

The proposal fails to distinguish between "ETS exposure" and "living with a spouse who smokes," makes light of the substantial loss-to-follow-up expected in this cohort, freely assumes adequate adjustment can be made for the non-representativeness of the initial cohort underplays the import of smoking cessation on the analyses, and is uncritical of positions established by the anti-smoking community.

The proposal fails to Appacently, some a 1960-72 from the

The list of consulting authors (Heath, Kabat, Garfinkel) is impressive and should add credibility to interpretation of results.

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### Summary

- BMJ's policy: disclosure of relevant financial ties within the last 5 years
- Is Enstrom's disclosure accurate, given his long steady history of funding from the tobacco
- Should journals stop publishing tobacco industry funded research?
- Enstrom study raises question of accepting tobacco industry money for academic research