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March 29, 2007

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Wyatt R. Hume
Provost and Executive Vice President
Academic and Health Affairs
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

Dear Provost Hume:

Thank you for your March 22 letter notifying us that Chancellor Abrams, of UCLA, has reviewed the materials we provided to you and found no evidence of scientific misconduct on the part of Dr. James Enstrom. We applaud the vigilance with which the University of California has responded to the term "scientific misconduct" in our October 12, 2006 letter to President Dynes. Since this issue seems to have become a focus of the University's response, however, we wish to clarify several issues for the record.

First, it has never been our intention to request a formal review of Dr. Enstrom's actions nor have we ever suggested that his behavior meets the official University definition of "scientific misconduct". We have no indication that Dr. Enstrom engaged in plagiarism or falsification of data. In fact, we have no interest in personalizing this issue, except to illustrate the vulnerability of the current system. It would be unfortunate if our letter to President Dynes were to be misinterpreted as a complaint against a specific individual, rather than our perspective on the broader and more fundamental issue of the corrupting influence of tobacco industry funding for research.

We doubt that Dr. Enstrom's study of secondhand smoke would ever have been conducted or published without funding and support from the tobacco industry. Unfortunately, when he first proposed collaborating with the Society's epidemiologists in the late 1980s, he did not reveal that he was already serving as a paid consultant to Philip Morris in litigation concerning secondhand smoke. His initial proposal was to extend follow-up of participants in Cancer Prevention Study I who resided in California. The American Cancer Society did not fund this proposal, because a committee of external scientific advisors meeting in the early 1990s judged it to have low scientific merit. Their concern was that it would be infeasible for the study to collect information on exposures after 1972, the year in which the American Cancer Society study ended and the participants were last contacted.

National Home Office

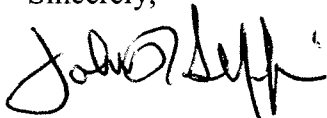
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You must appreciate that the scientific debate about the Enstrom study is far more fundamental than a technical discussion of the merits of one methodological approach versus another. The final manuscript that Enstrom and Kabat published in the British Medical Journal in 2003 had no information on secondhand smoke exposure between 1972 and 1998 (69% of the 39-year follow-up) for most of the cohort, and relied on information from one source of exposure (a spouse who smoked) during the first twelve years. A basic principle of empirical research is that scientific findings are only as valid as the underlying measurements. Because the data that Enstrom collected could not distinguish who was or was not exposed to secondhand smoke, his findings were predestined to find no relationship between secondhand smoke and either lung cancer or heart disease at the outset, give or take the random variation that is an inherent feature of all studies.

In summary, we believe that the Enstrom study is an actual example of how tobacco industry funding for research selectively supports certain scientific projects that should never be conducted, and likely would never be conducted even if abundant funding were available from reputable sources. We appreciate your attention on this issue and deeply regret if any misunderstanding of the intent of our letter to President Dynes last October has inconvenienced you and your staff.

Sincerely,



John R. Seffrin, PhD
Chief Executive Officer



Michael Thun, MD
VP, Epidemiology & Surveillance Research

cc: President Dynes
Regent Blum