

**School of Hygiene and Public Health**

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Alfred Sommer  
Dean

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Faculty, JHU School of Hygiene and Public Health

**FROM:** Alfred Sommer, MD, MHS

**DATE:** March 21, 2000

**RE:** Support of Scientific Research by Organizations Associated with the Tobacco Industry

Our faculty have provided substantial evidence that tobacco use is the single greatest cause of preventable disease, disability and death in the United States, and increasingly, around the world; and that addiction to tobacco is a public health issue which warrants the strongest measures.

The Advisory Board is also mindful of recent evidence indicating that research sponsored by organizations and companies directly or indirectly funded by the tobacco industry is often systematically manipulated by the choice of projects selected for support and to the way in which their results are interpreted, as a deliberate strategy to purposely mislead the public about the adverse health effects of tobacco use. In the Advisory Board's opinion, the extent of disease, disability, and death caused by smoking and the conduct on the part of the tobacco industry are so completely at variance with the stated mission of the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health that it is inappropriate for this School to knowingly accept research support from the tobacco industry.

With due respect for the academic freedom of members of the faculty and their right to pursue any and all legal avenues of inquiry, the School will no longer accept new research grants or contracts from organizations known to be directly or indirectly funded by the tobacco industry. While; faculty may, of course, seek and receive such funds in their capacity as private individuals, the Advisory Board feels doing so should at the very least be an informed decision as well as a matter of conscience.

