



July 14, 2005

The Regents of the University of California
1111 Franklin St., 12th floor
Oakland, CA 94607

VIA FAX: 510-987-9224

Dear Regents:

We are aware that the University of California system is debating a policy concerning the acceptance of tobacco company money for academic research. It is our understanding that only the UC Board of Regents has the authority to establish policies on the acceptance of research funding and that there is a compelling need for the UC Regents to set a clear policy for all academic units in the UC system regarding acceptance of tobacco money. We urge the UC Board of Regents to adopt a policy specifically preventing the acceptance of tobacco research money by all units of the University of California system. The University of California's leadership in taking this action will have rippling effects at academic research institutions throughout the United States and around the world.

The tobacco industry has long looked for ways to buy respectability through linkages with reputable institutions like the University of California. Funding academic research is a key way the tobacco industry gains legitimacy. The tobacco companies are continuing to spend vast sums trying to convince a skeptical public that they have changed and no longer condone the deceptive business practices that were pervasive for so long. In fact, very little has changed except a new cast of characters and more effective and sophisticated public relations strategies.

As stewards of America's public health, we are well aware of how tobacco companies have used lucrative research grants to buy scientific legitimacy. Unfortunately, in too many cases the money has bought complicity on the part of some academic scientists who were willing to trade their integrity for economic rewards from Big Tobacco. The U.S. Department of Justice has accused the tobacco companies of a five-decade fraud that includes paying for misleading research designed to deceive the American public about the dangers of smoking and the adverse effects of second hand smoke. The history of tobacco-sponsored research is so full of examples of duplicity and disregard for public health that university researchers who accept tobacco industry money run the risk of having their work deemed suspect. Even an institution as renowned as the University of California cannot expect its stellar reputation to offset the taint of being identified with tobacco money. Perhaps that is why the UC Regents wisely decided to divest all University tobacco industry holdings in 2001.

We hope the UC Board of Regents will examine all the facts and make the most prudent decision on whether or not they can comfortably allow acceptance of money from an industry that continues to be responsible for the deaths of more than 400,000 Americans every year. A policy against acceptance of tobacco money would send a strong message that the good name of the University of California cannot be used to gain legitimacy for irresponsible corporate behavior and would be entirely consistent with your 2001 decision on divestiture. To decide otherwise would be a victory for tobacco companies and a blow to the integrity of the University of California.

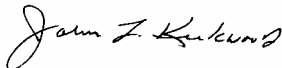
Sincerely,



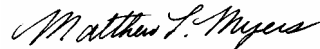
John R. Seffrin, Ph.D.
CEO
American Cancer Society



M. Cass Wheeler
CEO
American Heart Association



John L. Kirkwood
President & CEO
American Lung Association



Matthew L. Myers
President
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids