

(Issued by the American Medical Association)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago -- Six tobacco companies have offered the American Medical Association Education and Research Foundation \$10 million to help finance basic research on the relationship of smoking to disease and the offer has been accepted, Raymond M. McKeown, M.D., Foundation president, announced Friday.

Dr. McKeown, Coos Bay, Oregon, physician, said the funds were offered with the understanding that they could be accepted only if given without restrictions. Dr. McKeown said, "The members of the Board of Directors of the Foundation were pleased to accept the generous offer of these companies."

The research funds are to be made available over a five-year period by The American Tobacco Co., Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co., P. Lorillard Co., Philip Morris, Inc., and R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

A joint letter signed by the Presidents of the six companies said they were willing to contribute \$10 million to the Foundation's previously announced research project on tobacco and health "in the hope and expectation that the research project proposed will aid materially in finding solutions to public health problems of national and international concern."

Dr. McKeown said that the research funds from the companies will be made available to the Foundation in equal annual installments with the agreement that if any of the funds are not needed or cannot be usefully spent on the research project, the unused portion will be returned to the companies.

Last week, Dr. McKeown announced the appointment of a five-member committee of scientists to direct the Foundation's long-range program of basic research to determine if possible how tobacco smoke affects health. The committee is headed by Maurice H. Seevers, M.D., Ph.D., Chairman of the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor. Dr. Seevers and two other members of the committee served on the Surgeon General's Advisory Committee on Smoking and Health which studied the evidence linking smoking and disease and concluded that smoking is a definite health hazard.

The AMA-ERF research project on tobacco and health was authorized by the American Medical Association's House of Delegates last December, and the AMA Board of Trustees appropriated \$500,000 to get the program underway.

The House of Delegates acted on recommendation of the Board of Trustees for a study "devoted primarily to determining which significant human ailments may be caused or aggravated by smoking, how they may be caused, the particular element or elements in smoke that may be the causal or aggravating agent and methods for the elimination of such agent."

Dr. McKeown said the Foundation's research program will be designed to get behind the statistical evidence linking smoking and disease and to try to find out through fundamental, scientific laboratory and clinical research just how tobacco smoke affects the human body.

The House of Delegates authorized the Foundation to solicit tobacco research project funds from industry, foundations, voluntary health agencies and other sources and to accept funds "only if they are given without restrictions."

An excerpt from the companies' letter follows.

"The undersigned companies understand that pursuant to action taken by the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association at its meeting last December, the American Medical Association Education and Research Foundation is to undertake a comprehensive program of research on tobacco and health, devoted primarily to determining which significant human ailments may be caused or aggravated by smoking, how they may be caused, the particular element or elements in smoke that may be the causal or aggravating agents and methods for the elimination of such agents. It is the further understanding of the undersigned companies that the project is to be conducted effectively, exhaustively and with complete objectivity by a director having the requisite experience, qualifications and integrity.

"The announcement of the project indicated that it would be financed by a substantial contribution from the American Medical Association and that contributions would be solicited from other sources, with the understanding that contributions would be accepted only if given without restrictions.

"In the hope and expectation that the research project proposed will aid materially in finding solutions to public health problems of national and international concern, the undersigned companies are willing to contribute to the American Medical Association Education and Research Foundation for use in financing the research project during the period 1964 through 1968, a total of ten million dollars."

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