

Mr. Charles E. H.
15111 Bank,
London, W.C.

Dear Sir Charles,

I apologise for the delay in answering your letter of March 1967 about surfactant; while this reply is being prepared Mr. Wade has had your most recent letter enquiring about our program with a similar but distinct.

We had previously delayed writing you because, last month, Mr. L. [unclear] is the Executive Director of the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council, received a request which was subsequently granted, for money to support some preliminary work on surfactant. This study does not approach the problem of the smoke-surfactant interaction in the direct way that your proposal does. His approach is oblique but could provide worthwhile results. The researcher to whom the grant was being awarded is Dr. E. Reininger, a respiratory physiologist at McGill. He has produced, and reasonably substantiated, the theory that smoking is a reflexive mechanism designed to prevent atelectasis in the small bronchi and collapse of alveoli. He has also observed, admittedly on a very small sample, that smoking interferes with the normal surfactant mechanism and wishes to pursue his observation with a larger and more controlled group. It is possible, therefore, that his results may indicate that smoking in humans leads, at least temporarily, towards contraction rather than towards expansion of the alveoli as suggested by some other publications on surfactant.

The results of this work, however, will certainly not provide information about the underlying physical or chemical reactions of smoke and surfactant. This can best be obtained by following the steps you have outlined. I agree that this work should provide valuable information and ought to be undertaken as soon as possible but I do not feel that the Montreal laboratory can do much about it at present.

The situation we are faced with there, is either for you to use your influence to have the work undertaken in Europe, or possibly to propose the project formally to the Canadian Manufacturers Council, in the hope that they will support it and find a research group willing to tackle it.

Yours sincerely,

M.A. Nisbet

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MAN/sg
cc: Dr. S.J. Green

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