

MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH GROUP

RIO DE JANEIRO

November 7 - 9, 1988

DRAFT MINUTES

Present:	Dr. R. E. Thornton)	BAT Co.
	Dr. S. Boyse)	
	Dr. C. J. P. de Siqueira)	Souza Cruz
	Dr. A. Rodrigues)	
	Mr. E. Köhn)	BATCF
	Mr. B. Pangritz)	
	Dr. S. Massey		Imperial Tobacco
	Dr. G. Smith		BAT UK&E
	Dr. J. G. Esterle		Brown & Williamson

Monday - 7th November

1. The Group reviewed the future role of the SRG, following discussion on this subject at the recent Research Policy Group meeting. It was confirmed that the primary role of the SRG is to exercise the company's duty of care in relation to interaction between tobacco smoke and the smoker. This includes not only broad fundamental work on the mechanisms of so-called smoking-associated diseases, but more tangible aspects of potential alteration of products in the light of the results of such funded work and of other work being carried out. The company's duty of care will also involve the SRG in making recommendations as to how product modifications or novel products should be tested and compared to conventional cigarettes.
2. Dr. Theodore Sterling gave a presentation which covered his work on indoor air quality, noting that investigations by NIOSH in the USA and Health and Welfare, Canada, suggest that ETS is an insignificant contribution to Sick Building Syndrome. He also discussed models of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, e.g., by Repace and by Sterling's own colleagues.
3. Professor Alvan Feinstein gave a presentation concerning problems and shortcomings in epidemiological studies in general. He

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criticised the poor scientific method adopted by many epidemiologists and the increasing reliance on over-complex statistical and computerised methodology. He contrasted his own view of epidemiology with that of more "classical" epidemiologists such as Sir Richard Doll.

4. Professor J. Idle discussed the background of his research project that is supported by the SRG and discussed his requirements for future research. He noted that all of his previous work on extensive metaboliser/poor metaboliser phenotypes and lung cancer risk had been carried out in smokers; it was essential to determine whether the same pattern of risk occurred in nonsmokers. It was also necessary to do further work to determine the role of occupation.

Tuesday - 8th November

5. The Group briefly reviewed the work carried out by Reynolds on "Premier", covering "Other noxae", the toxicology of smoke, human smoking and the toxicology of individual components of the product.

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6. The Group considered that the majority of the chemical and toxicological studies had been carried out to high standards; however, it was believed that further supporting work on glycerol was needed.

Wednesday - November 9th

7. The issue of "Other Noxae" was discussed, particularly in relation to the RJR document on "Premier". RJR's approach was broadly similar to that developed by the SRG but by their method of calculation a greater number of compounds were included above the arbitrary _____. It was agreed to continue with the list produced at previous SRG meetings, although compounds within a factor of 10 of the SRG _____ would be kept under review. The SRG also noted that it was extremely difficult to set reasonable criteria on the basis of delivery data from old cigarettes; it was therefore recommended that group companies should carry out analyses to determine delivery data for more typical products.
8. The SRG had been asked to recommend whether or not additional work on Free Radicals should be carried out in Southampton. At this stage the SRG saw no reason why further research should be recommended; however, a firm recommendation could not be given on the basis of the present state of knowledge of the Group. It was suggested that an independent scientist (not necessarily one working directly in the area of Free Radicals) would be asked to review the area and its significance. Professor V V Kakkar, who has a grant from the SRG on mechanisms of atherosclerosis and trombosis, would be asked to talk at the next SRG meeting on his work related to "Free Radicals".
9. Professor Idle, who is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Council for Tobacco Research, gave a presentation on the scope and projects of the CTR. He noted that the CTR has provided \$120,000,000 since 1954 to Fund 1009 original projects by 629 scientists (including two Label laureates) in 300 institutions worldwide. The present budget of the CTR

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was \$12 million per year. The Council supports 50% of its projects in the field of cancer research; other subjects covered include pharmacology, immunology, pulmonary and cardiovascular research. The Scientific Advisory Board has 14 eminent scientists as members, including 4 members of the US National Academy of Sciences.

10. The SRG budget for 1989 was discussed and approved; there was no funding available for additional projects.
11. The next meeting of the SRG would be in Geneva on March 13-15, 1989. Two additional scientific representatives of BAT would be invited to attend this meeting; Dr. P. Madsen from Skandinavisk Tobakskompagnie in Denmark and Dr. A. Artho from BAT Suisse. As well as Professor Kakkar, Dr. Graham Currie from the Marie Curie Institute would be invited to report on the progress of his project; a speaker from the Swiss manufacturer's association (ASFC) would also be invited. The following meeting would be in Louisville in early September 1989, before the RPG meeting in Montreal.

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