

Talk by R. Peto

Richard Peto gave an hour and a half's dissertation at GR&DC on 23rd June to members of the BAT Company involved in smoking issues. The talk covered epidemiological considerations of smoking and lung cancer in particular, both in a retrospective sense and, based on very recent data, prospectively. Peto viewed the future scenario as essentially hopeful as far as the industry is concerned, and finished his talk with the following statements which are reported verbatim.

1. Peto's minimum request.
"Even if for legal liability reasons you cannot publicly endorse (that there are) health hazards, at least say nothing".
2. "Try to keep U.K. tar deliveries falling without misleadingly suggesting that "low tar" is safe".
3. "Seek product modifications that are likely to reduce the risks not only of lung cancer but also of vascular and respiratory disease". "i.e. seek the chief determinants of compensation "nicotine, flavours"".
4. "Try to act in an international context so as to encourage and/or facilitate modifications in countries where they have not yet penetrated" "Russia, China, France, Italy".

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