

R. M. Gibb

Mr. P. Paré

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*collaboration*  
In ~~connection~~ with Dr. Richard Binns, head of BAT's new "Life Sciences Group" a plan to re-orient the research program of ITPL's biochemistry group is under study. Following an assessment of the ability of our people and their current work program, and a consideration of the role of biochemistry in relation to the objectives of the Life Sciences Group, we are in agreement about a proposed role for the ITPL biochemistry group.

A practical obstacle to be overcome is to arrange for exposure of animals to smoke and for immediately adjacent laboratory facilities. We have consulted Dr. Hogg of McGill, and Dr. Witschi, University of Montreal Pharmacology Dept. Dr. Hogg has suggested a scheme that seems feasible. He would arrange research appointments at McGill for one or possibly both of our biochemists. If he were to be awarded a research grant by CTMC, McGill animal facilities could be used, and our people could work in McGill laboratories as well as at ITPL.

Dr. Witschi's role would be to familiarize our people with some techniques of biochemical examination in which he is expert. He can offer limited animal exposure facilities at University of Montreal, sufficient for this initial training period, but not enough for the main body of work. He would be retained as a consultant specifically for this assistance.

Before working up a detailed proposal we would appreciate your views, particularly as to its suitability for CTMC support.

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### The BAT Program

The philosophical basis is acceptance of the "working hypothesis" that smoking is harmful, consequently tobacco companies should: a) try to make "safer" products; b) be assured of the safety of proposed ingredients such as tobacco substitutes, casings, flavours, agricultural chemicals, etc. Both considerations require evaluation procedures that are deemed by medical authorities to have relevance to the human ills associated with smoking.

Current BAT effort is towards development of long term animal inhalation techniques. While such methodology may prove to be the definitive form of evaluation, it will be too slow and costly for product development purposes. It is thus recognized that short term screening tests will be needed, of a type capable of being developed by biochemists. This is where ITPL, with its biochemists, can make a contribution.

### The Canadian Program

ITPL has developed some bio-assay methods, but their relevance rests largely on theoretical arguments. To gain credibility in the eyes of medical people the biochemical changes which later would serve as a basis for bio-assay should be demonstrated to occur in the tissues of smoke exposed animals. The identification of biochemical changes associated with smoke exposure is basic research, and Dr. Hogg is therefore confident that the proposed research would be approved at McGill. McGill approval would require agreement to publish results in a scientific journal.

The immediate proposal would be for basic research to obtain information that subsequently might be used to develop practical bio-assay procedures. McGill would not agree to participate in the latter development phase. This phase would undcuttedly be undertaken by BAT or other organizations which would have access to the basic research information.

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General Considerations

- 1) The nature of the work supports BAT Group S&H policy of local involvement with the medical fraternity. It would be viewed with favour by people like Dr. Colburn who are critical of the secrecy that surrounds so much of the tobacco industry's S&H research.
- 2) From a CTMC point of view it is desirable that the Canadian industry be seen to be doing research in Canada. The fact that foreign controlled companies do research at headquarters does not impress Canadians.
- 3) American owned companies do not publicly accept the BAT "working hypothesis" from which this proposed research stems. However S&H research has at times been commissioned to take place outside of the U.S.
- 4) It would have to be established that BAT is willing to have this work undertaken with CTMC sponsorship.
- 5) Dr. Witschi's research funds come from the Canadian Medical Research Council. He is evidently free to offer time and limited use of U. of M. facilities. Whether this is a "moonlighting" situation is not clear, and we have not established the position of U. of M. nor the Canadian Medical Research Council.
- 6) The program would represent a unique example of integration of BAT Group R & D effort towards a common objective in the S&H field. It would greatly improve the utilization of the IFFA biochemistry group.
- 7) It is difficult to estimate cost until the work is planned. A wild guess is of the order of \$50,000 to \$75,000 a year for possibly two years, but I am really asking whether you feel we should prepare a proposal.

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