

CHICAGO — The American Medical Association Education and Research Foundation this spring concluded its 14-year program of sponsoring research into the health hazards of tobacco with publication of a final summary report.

The 365 page book includes a summary of the research projects conducted, abstracts of each of the 759 individual programs and the names of participating researchers and institutions.

In January of 1964, the American Medical Association Education and Research Foundation (AMA-ERF) entered into a five-year contract with six tobacco companies to conduct a comprehensive program of research on tobacco and health. The research was devoted to the study of human ailments that may be caused or aggravated by smoking, the particular element or elements that may be the cause, and the mechanisms of their action.

The six companies pledged a total of \$10,000,000 to the AMA-ERF to finance the five-year effort. A scientific committee headed by the late Maurice H. Seegers, M. D., chairman of pharmacology at the University of Michigan, was named to supervise the program.

The contract was renewed in 1969 for another five years with an additional \$5,000,000 contribution from the Tobacco Industry. Between 1964 and 1975, some 844 researchers in 82 United States and 15 foreign research institutions produced 759 publications and reports on the relationship of tobacco and health.

Commenting on the Report, James H. Sammons, M. D., executive vice president of the AMA-ERF, said: "At no point in the 14 years of this project was any attempt ever made to influence the research areas to be pursued or the committee's final report on the results."

The research was conducted in three broad areas, seeking knowledge of the effects of smoking on (1) the cardiovascular system (heart and circulation), (2) respiratory system, (3) central nervous system.

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The Committee for Research on Tobacco and Health of AMA-ERF, during its ten years of active life, maintained liaison with the National Institutes of Health and the Council for Tobacco Research, U.S.A., to minimize duplication of efforts. Grants for lung cancer research were at a minimum, because so much work already was being done in this area.

The Committee said the AMA-ERF Program has provided "important contributions to basic medical science as well as to problems associated with tobacco usage. Valuable information has been obtained relating to distribution, metabolism, excretion and toxicity of nicotine absorbed by the human body via cigarette smoking."

Copies of the book are being sent to all institutional members of the medical Library Association, the researchers and institutions who participated and other interested parties.

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