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Business Wire

July 13, 1995, Thursday - 10:37 Eastern Time

DISTRIBUTION: Business Editors/Health Writers

LENGTH: 1596 words

HEADLINE: Tobacco Industry Documents Reveal Early Knowledge Of Nicotine
Addiction And Other Health Effects Of Smoking, UCSF Researchers Write In JAMA

DATELINE: SAN FRANCISCO

BODY:

July 13, 1995--Internal memos concerning research conducted by the Brown and Williamson Tobacco Company and its parent company BAT Industries reveal that for more than 30 years the tobacco industry concealed evidence that nicotine is addictive and tobacco smoke causes cancer, UC San Francisco researchers report in a series of five articles in the July 19 edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

UCSF researchers analyzed nearly 8,000 pages of confidential tobacco industry documents, including 4,000 pages sent anonymously in May 1994 to Stanton A. Glantz, PhD, UCSF professor of medicine.

"The documents provide a unique window -- or more precisely, a keyhole view -- into how the tobacco industry has responded over the years to the ever-growing body of scientific evidence proving that its products kill," Glantz and colleagues write in an overview article entitled "Looking Through a Keyhole at the Tobacco Industry, The Brown and Williamson Documents."

By the 1960s, the tobacco companies had proven in their own laboratories that cigarette tar causes cancer in animals, according to the article. Tobacco industry scientists and lawyers were acting by the early 1960s on the assumption that nicotine is addictive, the article states.

"To this day, despite overwhelming scientific evidence and official government reports to the contrary, the tobacco industry denies that tobacco products are addictive or that they cause any disease whatsoever," the article notes.

* Complete article available in
Information Center.

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