

People from the Japanese Tobacco Society of Public Health

(1) Takashi Sugimura, President of the National Cancer Center

Due to a legal ruling in the United States, internal documents from the tobacco industry have now been disclosed to the public. Let's take a look at them.

This was the first time that Japan Tobacco (JT), Phillip Morris (PM) and the President of the National Cancer Center, Takashi Sugimura, held a meeting.

Professor Hirayama's article was published in January 1981, and on the Emperor's birthday (at that time) in April, JT arranged for them to meet at a hotel and to talk for over an hour.

<https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/tobacco/docs/#id=hkwv0093>

Of all people, imagine the president of the National Cancer Center being sitting next to people from JT and PM in a hotel, and then I wonder if it would it be fine to act as they say?

President Sugimura disparaged the ideas of his subordinate Dr. Hirayama by calling them "religious". However, as we can see from today's Surgeon General's Report, Dr. Hirayama has maintained his job.

To show contempt to those of us who are non-smokers, they are often disparaged as being religious, based on the remark by Takashi Sugimura, the president of the National Cancer Center, during a meeting with JT and PM in April 1981. At this time, President Takashi Sugimura reviewed the article of Director Takeshhi Hirayama, who was his subordinate at that time, and disparaged it as "religious."

<https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/tobacco/docs/#id=hkwv0093>

Now, it is now apparent which person is more religious.

It seems that Takashi Sugimura did not know that such documents were still available.

At least until recently, Dr. Hirayama was one of the directors of the National Cancer Research Center. Accordingly, he told one of the board members "these documents remain", and it seems that he spoke about them at a board meeting. When Takashi Sugimura heard this, he seemed to be quite upset. This might have led to the link to Dr. Hirayama's commemorative article (1981/1) being recently deleted from the National Cancer Research Center's records. But records can not be erased like cleverly erasing a mistake with an eraser.

(2) Hitoshi Kasuga (Professor at Tokai University)

Among collaborators with the tobacco industry, it seems that no one ought to be more despicable and absurd than this man.

When he first appeared before us, he was praising the prevention of passive smoking. But by 28 April 1981, the tobacco industry had already contacted him. He acquired the trust of Professor Hirayama and was given responsibility for the latter professor's data. According to a 1985 letter, it was all given to the tobacco industry.

Then, by using this access, the tobacco industry then began denouncing Dr. Hirayama's research by picking on minute details.

From 30 March to 3 April 1992 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the symposium ``8th World Conference on Tobacco and Health'' was held. The moderator, Professor Judith Mackay, reprimanded some in the audience, ``This assembly hall... There are persons from the tobacco industry here! Leave immediately!'' she said, pointing at Mr. Kasuga. Under the gaze of everyone in the assembly hall, Hitoshi Kasuga appeared sluggishly leaving the assembly hall with his grey hair fluttering.

This is a letter addressed from Mr. Shimizu of JT to Mr. Hoel of PM:

Dear Dr. Hoel

I received your letter dated May 24, 1985, asking about Dr. Hirayama's present position. I am happy to provide you with the following information.

Dr. Hirayama (aged sixty-two) retired from the National Cancer Center at the end of March, 1985. He then established the Institute of Preventive Oncology, and became the Director of the Institute.

His present address is as follows:

Dr. Takeshi Hirayama
Director
Institute of Preventive Oncology
4-Sadoharacho 1-chome Ichigaya,
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160 JAPAN

He does not yet have a telephone.

I have heard that Dr. Hirayama's Institute is privately sponsored by some members of the National Cancer Center. He has been given the title of Visiting Professor of Tokai University, through the efforts of Dr. Kasuga.

In addition, Dr. Hirayama's data collected during his former position is in the keeping of Dr. Kasuga. As you indicated, interesting results could be anticipated if some independent scientists could examine such data. However, it is very difficult to obtain and access to his data in the present situation.

Please let me know if I can assist you in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Y. Shimizu
Yoshiharu Shimizu

cc: Mr. Kazuya Takahashi
Mr. Horace R. Kornegay

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(3)

<https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/tobacco/docs/#id=glfw0198>

Before the 6th Tobacco and Health Conference (9–12 November 1987), a summary of research funds and projects from JT was published. (dated 4 June 1986)

It is a terrible list. During 1985, JT paid over 300 million yen on research projects. On the list of research projects titled "smoking (sic) and cancer"(1), if you look at item 12, there is even research on polonium (210Po). The important point about these research projects is that their results remained internal to JT and were never transmitted to the public.

(4)

These people are classified into 3 main categories. They are

(1) Ministry of Treasury – Ministry of Finance

(2) Japan Tobacco (JT)

(3) Phillip Morris (PM)

Category (1) includes people near the Ministry of Treasury/Ministry of Finance, starting with Itsuzo Shigematsu. Itzo Shigematsu said that lung cancer has no relationship to tobacco. He is famous for saying that Minamata disease (methylmercury poisoning) has no relationship to mercury and that itai-itai disease (cadmium poisoning) has no relationship to cadmium. These statements tied him to members of the Tobacco Business Subcommittee of the Fiscal System Council. https://www.mof.go.jp/about_mof/councils/fiscal_system_council/sub-of_tobacco/index.html However, this category excludes those who were forced to resign because they adamantly insisted that images of health effects should be put on tobacco packages.

Category (2) includes people tied to the Smoking Science Research Foundation. Until now, it has provided approximately 6 million yen over three years to approximately 100 people each year. This amount is overwhelming.

Category (3) includes people near Phillip Morris, starting with Takashi Sugimura. Recently, even if people smoke, cases of the novel coronavirus have not worsened, and deaths have not increased. Perhaps this has led people to claim that heated tobacco has reduced harm relative to combusted tobacco. Although the number of contaminants in heated tobacco is low, their malignancy is high

(5) Dr. Wataru Mori (Professor of Pathology, University of Tokyo; President of the University of Tokyo)

The executive office of the Japanese Society for Tobacco Control has collected summaries of commissioned research reports on smoking and health from Japan Tobacco Inc., as well as annual research reports from the Smoking Science Research Foundation up to the latest issue.

If there is a concern that he may have conducted this kind of research, our office can investigate immediately.

Around 1986, a certain professor met Dr. Wataru Mori by chance on the campus of the University of Tokyo. Based on the rumors, that professor asked, "Have you been doing research on tobacco companies recently?" "No", Dr. Mori said bluntly. That professor shook his head and walked away.

Let's examine the 1984 commissioned research report and the 1986 annual research report. The former examined 2987 cases that had recently analyzed autopsies over the past 40 years. From these results, a high rate of cancer associated with smoking was seen in the lungs, maxillary sinuses, salivary glands, esophagus, tongue, pleura, laryngo-pharynx, kidneys, and other areas. However, in these research reports, something strange was stated: "The fact that the relative risk for lung cancer from cigarettes has decreased over time properly corresponds with recent improvements in cigarettes themselves, such as lower tar content, and the increasing rate of carcinogenic factors in the environment, such as air pollution." Then, "This was understood to mean that factors other than cigarettes are strongly influencing the prevalence of lung cancer," they stated, with an obscure meaning.

Regarding the 1986 annual research report, Professor Wataru Mori said: "From cases in each previous year, we investigated the relationship between malignant tumors and a history of drinking and smoking. The subjects were 9107 cases from 1936 to 1983." The results in each year were almost the same as the results from the previous year's study. As for the effects of smoking, higher rates of esophageal cancer, sinus tumors, and lung cancer were found in men; and higher rates of esophageal cancer and lung cancer were found in women. From these results, the report concluded: "If we assume the hypothesis that chronic irritation from alcohol, nicotine, tar, et cetera extends over many years, then carcinogenesis is promoted, and we believe that the relative frequency of each tumor reflects to some extent the risk of each tumor associated respectively with drinking and smoking." For reference literature, see the epidemiology of

gastric cancer from professor Takeshhi Hirayama, cited in Internal Medicine MOOK 8:4-10, 1979.

This view is generally correct today. When a professor told Professor Mori that Professor Mori was researching tobacco, he must have thought that he was correct when he immediately said, "I am not doing that." As a metaphor, even if one starts to turn into a zombie, one can return to the right path.

By the way, to cite a few names in the 1986 research annual report, the names of research presenters such as Takatoshi Ishikawa, Kazuo Takemoto, Shigeyoshi Kanizawa, Yutaka Abe, Takahide Izumi, Yoshinosuke Fukuchi, Satoshi Yanagida, Hitoshi Kasuga and Hiomi Homma were recognized immediately.

(6) Seigo Fukuma (Director of Chiba Cancer Center)

PM and JT recruited people who could make nice comments that were convenient for them. PM described these researchers as "in our pockets". It seems that these would include Hitoshi Kasuga, Seigo Fukuma, Yutami Tominaga, Satoshi Yanagita and many others who had repeatedly collaborated with overseas PM researchers. Seigo Fukuma even gave a lecture about the "advantages of smoking" at the Tobacco Institute of Japan (TIOJ) in July 1993, lasting 1 hour and 40 minutes and using 84 slides.

Because of this, Dr. Takeshhi Hirayama was practically isolated in Japan, and the things he wanted to do, like to prevent passive smoking, were met with derision at academic societies.

May 29, 1985

Mr. Lester W. Pullen
President,
R. J. Reynolds Tobacco International Inc.
Reynolds Plaza Complex,
Winston-Salem, NC 27102
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Pullen:

We were pleased that R.J.R. Tobacco International Inc. Executive Vice President, Mr. Rouben V. Chakalian could attend our Inauguration Ceremony.

Thank you also for agreeing to meet with Dr. Seigo Fukuma and Mr. Yoshiyuki Shimizu. We are very delighted if you could kindly arrange the meeting with your specialists for them on the 13th of June. Dr. Fukuma is a Corporate Advisor to our company, Honored Chairman of the Chiba-Prefecture Cancer Center, and former Chairman of the Japan Lung Cancer Society. Mr. Shimizu is a Special Advisor in the Smoking and Health Information Department of Japan Tobacco Inc. Both are concerned with the smoking and health problem in Japan.

In Japan, the Anti-Smoking Movement seems to have become quite strong. It would be very helpful if you would kindly speak with them about your opinion of the situation, and how you cope with the health and smoking matter.

At that time we will be happy to share with you information about the movement in Japan and our company's policies on smoking and health.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Masao Noguchi

Masao Noguchi
Doctor of Science
Director,
General Manager of Research
and development Headquarters
Japan Tobacco Inc.

(7) Ministry of Finance, Financial Affairs Bureau, Tobacco and Salt Business Office?

These people might even end up having a hand in committing crimes.

A letter dated 9 December 1986 from JT to Alan Rodgman, head of the Tobacco and Health Committee of the Japan Tobacco Association. (524131447)

The following is what is written there:

During briefing session with Mr. Guilfoie, one subject came up that was not discussed with JTI staff. In March ,1987 the Japanese Ministry of Health is scheduled to publish a "white paper" on smoking and health. Through contacts within the ministry, JTI scientists have obtained a copy of the first of three drafts of this paper. Since a large portion of the references cited in the review are not Japanese, JTI scientists would prefer to have some outside experts review and comment on the Ministry of Health draft.

This is illegal. First, one wonders if the money flowed from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare or the Ministry of Finance? It could not have been the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. There is no way they would take such a great risk by doing such a thing. Therefore, it would undoubtedly be the Tobacco and Salt Business Office in the Financial Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Finance.

There are JT personnel working in the Tobacco and Salt Business Office, so I think that it is possible that the draft paper leaked from there.

Regarding this white paper, PM and RJ Reynolds (RJR) greedily wanted to see all of its contents, and they were trying to obstruct the results from a national white paper by dissecting its contents.

PHILIP MORRIS INTERNATIONAL

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

120 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

RECEIVED
G. R. A.
MAR - 5 1987
File to:

TO: Ms. Michiko Egawa
 FROM: Matthew Winokur
 SUBJECT:

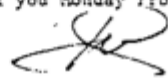
DATE: March 4, 1987

Please discuss the following recommendation with GRA and then see if Guilfoile agrees.

PM/RJR must try to obtain, through official channels, an advance copy of the "White Paper" from the Ministry of Health and Welfare. PM/RJR should seek an appointment with the designated Ministry official responsible for the "White Paper." At the meeting we should ask for an advance copy of the report. In a final effort to get JTI to join us, and to demonstrate we are serious, we should show them the letter asking for the meeting before sending it. We should reiterate to JTI that the industry must have a response prepared to the Ministry paper. JTI should also have an officially sanctioned copy of the report. If they refuse, then PM/RJR should proceed with seeking the appointment without them.

I'll call you Monday from HK.

MW/ls



cc: Mr. G.R. Aelvoet

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