

The 'Secret Sins' of Psychiatry

- A Case of *Tobacco industry's influence*
at a post-secondary institution



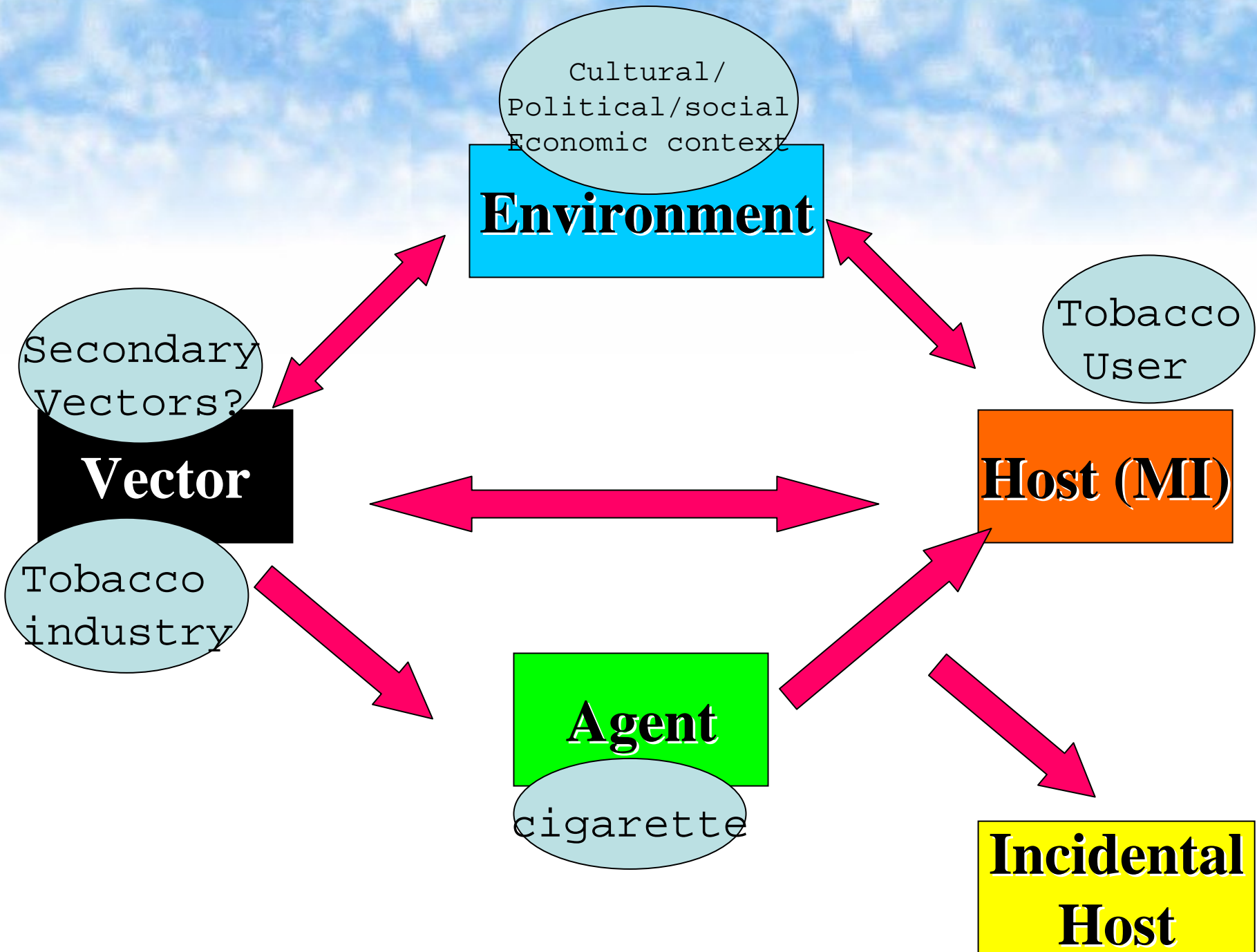
Charl Els, MBChB, FCPsych, MMed Psych (cum laude), Cert. ASAM, MROCC
& **Diane Kunyk**, RN, PhD (student)

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Disclaimers:

- Research Support 1-3,12.
- Honoraria 3-8,13,19,20.
- Advisory & Other Boards 8,15-17.
- Consultancy 9,14,15.
- Advocacy 10,11,16,17.

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- | | | | |
|----|---|-----|---|
| 1. | Health Canada | 10. | ASH Alberta Honorary Director |
| 2. | Alberta Health & Wellness | 11. | Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada |
| 3. | Pfizer Consumer Healthcare | 12. | AADAC |
| 4. | Astra Zeneca | 13. | Biovail |
| 5. | Lilly | 14. | Govt. Western Australia |
| 6. | Wyeth | 15. | Schering Canada |
| 7. | Lundbeck | 16. | CSAM |
| 8. | Pfizer Canada | 17. | CCTC 5 th National TOH |
| 9. | RHAs: CH, DTHR, Northern Health,
Peace Country, Chinook, Fraser. | 18. | Other: Affiliate: Ontario Tobacco Research Unit |
| | | 19. | GlaxoSmithKline |
| | | 20. | Abbott |
| | | 21. | Alberta Medical Association |



Cultural/
Political/social
Economic context

Environment

Tobacco
User

Host (MI)

Secondary
Vectors?

Vector

Tobacco
industry

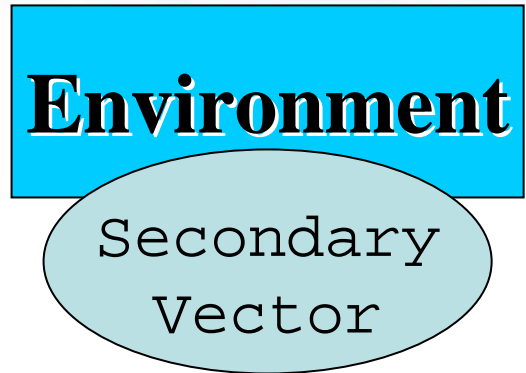
Agent

cigarette

**Incidental
Host**

TI-friendly Indicators in Alberta

- Acceptance of TI funding:
 - Within health facilities
 - SSC
 - CMHA
 - Tobacco industry funding at UofA:
 - Research, donations, consultancy
 - Restricted and unrestricted
 - Disclosed and undisclosed
- Tobacco sales in pharmacies
- Outdated policy for tobacco control
 - Investment in DSR Ventilation
 - Violations of Canada Tobacco Act and Canada Customs' Act
 - Boundaries
- Low capacity to treat tobacco-related issues
 - First tobacco billing in 2004
 - Still not billing code of general practitioners.



Chronology of Events

- Overall tobacco-friendly culture & 40% of Canada's ST market
- BoG prevents the SU from accepting Imperial scholarship (2001)¹
- Imperial funds research on lung Ca in FOMD (2004)²
- *SPH proposed partnership for HR (2005)
- Students' Union stops sales of tobacco products (2006)
- *Application for TUSP/CIHR funding screened out (2006)^{3,4}.
- *Identification of TI consultant in FOMD psychiatry^{3,4}.
- Reputation of student TI funding history questioned (2007)
- CCTC TOH Meeting & Snus launched in Edmonton (2007).
- Hosting of "Ethics & Integrity" (sic) Conference.
- SPH repeatedly defending ST in media.
- Policy discourse refusal by UofA despite three major health faculties.
- Polemic on UofA Board of Governors comment: "Dirty money is money".

1. Sibbald, B (2001) U of A refuses tobacco-sponsored scholarship donation CMAJ 164(1)

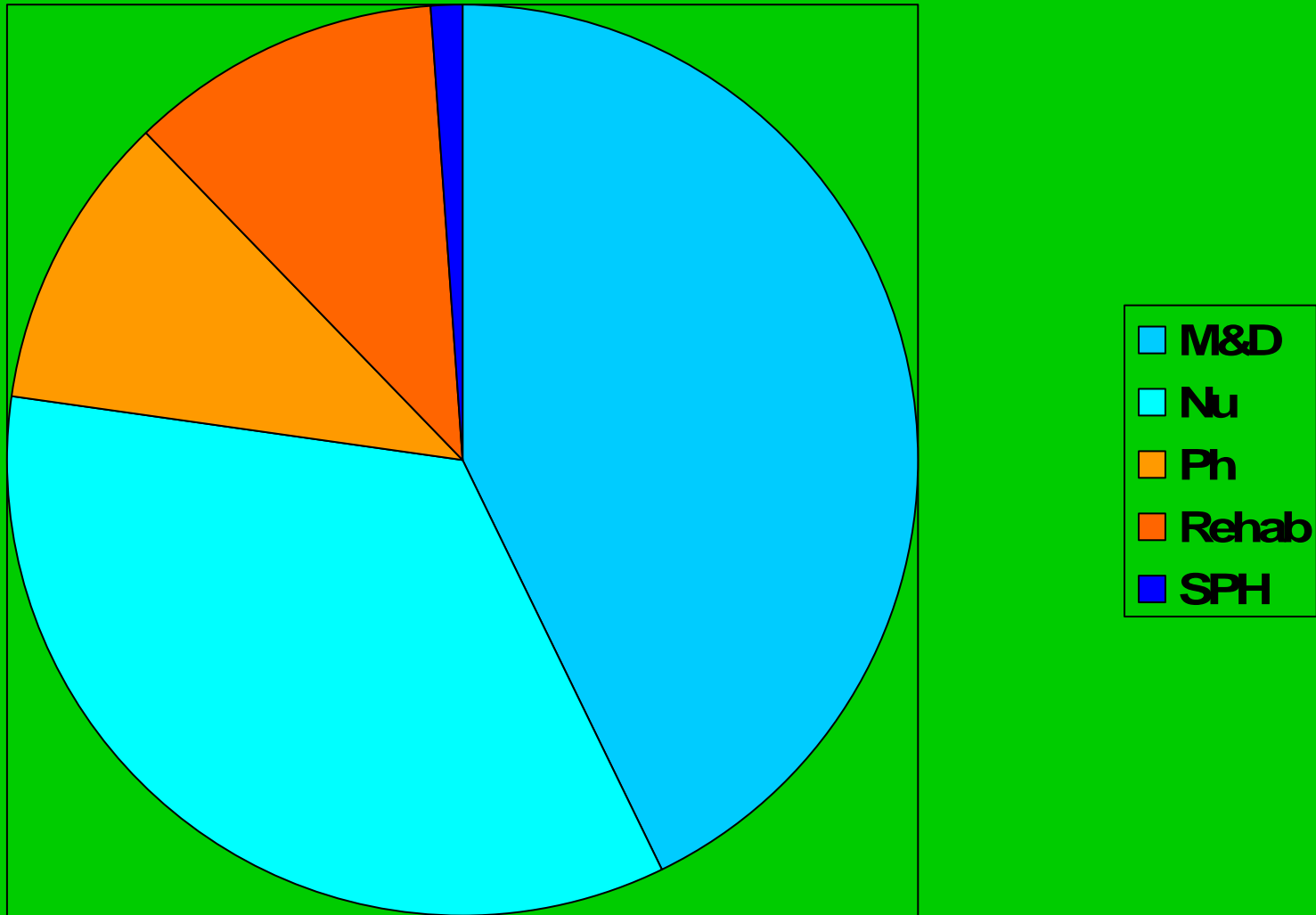
2. Department of Lab Science, Chairs Report, June 2004

3. Correspondence between Dr. C. Els, & Dr. G. Baker, Dr. T. Marrie, Ethics Board, CIHR, University of Alberta Hospital Foundation, Dean post-graduate education.

4. Edmonton Journal Editorial 2007.

* Mentally Ill populations impact.

UofA Health Sciences



Responses:

- Rationalizations:
 - *“Everyone needs money...” “It’s not just us...”*
 - *“Is (tobacco) really that bad?” “Is it still going on?”*
 - *“It is a legal product”; “dirty money is money”.*
- Democratic disease state. *“it is their right...”*
- Comparisons:
 - *“They are no different than the pharmaceutical industry”; “*
 - *“You are just on a witch hunt. This has nothing to do with the health of the region...”*
- Bargaining: *“Wouldn’t you just rather work on crystal meth?”*
- Obfuscation:
 - *“We have no intention of discussing with you any financial arrangements that may / may not have been in place. Consultancy agreements were irrelevant in this case”*
- “Surrender to smut”:
 - *“Els is more of a Calvinistic temperance... than an addiction psychiatrist”.*
 - *“You have to realize the system has ways of protecting itself...”*
 - *“Secret life of Charl Els”*



President UofA; Photo: www.ualberta.ca

“...respect for our faculties and researchers...
...the tradition of not infringing on their academic freedom, that we are not considering a policy banning the acceptance of tobacco industry funding at this time”.

June 12, 2007

Institutions' Policies for refusing Tobacco Money

- Harvard School of Public Health,
- LSU School of Public Health,
- Johns Hopkins School of Public Health,
- U of Arizona School of Public Health
- Ohio State U School of Public Health,
- UMDNJ School of Public Health,
- MAYO Clinic,
- Johns Hopkins School of Medicine,
- Harvard Medical School,
- U of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center,
- Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, UK,
- Karolinska Institute,
- Roswell Park Cancer Ctre,
- **UofA Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry,**
- **UofA Faculty of Nursing,**
- **UofA School of Public Health**
- **Capital Health, Alberta, Canada**



The BIG Drug Dealer...

- TI Denied:
 - Addictive nature
 - Harm from secondhand smoke
- Fund diversionary research
- *MSA*: Alleged conspiracy, fraud, etc.
- Guilty under *RICO Act*
- Requires a constant source of new customers.

Mahood, G.(2007) *What do the smoke folk have in common with organized crime or taking the normal out of an industry that kills.* Ottawa:NSRA

Open discourse requested:

- U of A is a secondary vector in the tobacco epidemic.
 - Industry gains reputation at U of A loss
 - Violates principal of equality
 - It's not the research, it's the funding source
 - Creates a financial uneven playing field
 - Modeling of moral growth
- Academic freedom
- Globalization and cultural pluralism²
- Explicit and implicit obligations³

-
1. Els C (2006) Addiction is a medical disorder, and our system is letting us down. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*. 52 (3):167-169.
 2. Pal L (2006). Chapter 2 Modern Governance
 3. Cohen, J (2001) Universities and tobacco money. *BMJ* 323



Slide: NSRA; Acknowledgment: Mr. G. Mahood



DONOR: Neo-Nazi Party

PROGRAM: Race Relations Forum



Slide: NSRA; Acknowledgment: Mr. G. Mahood



DONOR: Ku Klux Klan

PROGRAM: African Studies Workshop



Slide: NSRA; Acknowledgment: Mr. G. Mahood



DONOR: Slobodan Milosevic

PROGRAM: Human Rights Legislation



Slide: NSRA; Acknowledgment: Mr. G. Mahood



DONOR: Tobacco Industry

PROGRAM: Study of Corporate Ethics

Outcomes of TI \$\$:

- Divisive nature of dispute:
 - emails, debate, fear of speaking out, inequities in resources
- Conflict within/between faculties.
- Negative media attention.
- Reputation of the U of A - 'Tobacco University'.
- Personal damages:
 - Career, name calling, blogs
- Policies to restrict funding in Health Faculties.

Erroneous Assumptions:

- Ethics & Integrity trump:
 - Financial interests,
 - Politics, and
 - Public relations.
- The battle is over.
- Blood money is *not* welcome...

Why would PSIs continue to associate with the TI?

- Health research contributes to societal progress.
- Legitimate disagreements may exist.
- Familiarity with the history of the tobacco industry and observations of actions globally.
- No freedom is absolute.
- Ethics review may lack focus on PHE₁.

1. *Letter from University of Alberta Ethics Board to Dr. Els, 2007*

What do we do Next?

- NOTHING.
- Transparency in discourse.
- Ethics complaint disseminate¹
- Appeals to President of U of A²
- Alternative funding sources vigilance
- Devise further modes of public discussion⁴

1. Correspondence between the HREB and Dr. Charl Els, 2007

2. Correspondence from Alberta Liberal Party, Alberta Coalition for a Smoke-free Alberta, and the Edmonton and Area Tobacco Reduction NetWork.

3. Els, C Knyk D (2007) Canada: First public health school rejects tobacco funds. *Tobacco Control* (16) 223.

4. Vue, Edmonton Journal, National Post (2007)

Final Comments:

Public
~~Secret~~ Sins of Psychiatry?

- Goals are divergent.
- No freedom is absolute.
- Condition for research integrity.
- Autonomy does not preclude transparency.
- Awareness is key.

www.YouTube.com

Search:

Tobacco Money &
University of Alberta