

**ТЕМЕКІСІЗ**

Национальная Коалиция

"За Казахстан, свободный от табачного дыма"

Dear Elzhan Amantaevich!

The National Coalition "For Kazakhstan Smoke Free" (hereinafter referred to as the Coalition) expresses its respect and draws your special attention to a series of articles by a group of scientists led by the rector of KazNMU named after Asfendiyarov T. Nurgozhin (hereinafter referred to as the Article Series).

The main leitmotif of the series of articles: "The use of tobacco heating systems (SNT) causes less damage to health than cigarettes," which is a very controversial and controversial fact. Despite the fact that the articles were deleted from the KazNMU website, the Coalition got acquainted with their content and presented its analysis in an official letter.

A series of articles caused outrage among scientists, both inside KazNMU and beyond, who openly expressed their opinion on Facebook https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=680719462361692&id=100012709323874, which I consider to be a bold and principled position of real scientists, true champions of public health and patriots.

The coalition joins the opinion of scientists and categorically objects to the protest against the phenomenon of cooperation and funding of domestic research in the tobacco industry, which is a violation of scientific ethics and Article 5.3 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (hereinafter - the Convention) is an international ratified commitment of Kazakhstan.

The use of the guidelines of Article 5.3 of the Convention (hereinafter RP 5.3) applies to all government officials, bodies and entities and has a fundamental effect on countries' tobacco control policies and implementation of the Convention. They are an integral part of the Convention and state: *There is a fundamental and irreconcilable conflict between the interests of the tobacco industry and the interests of public health policy*, and therefore, it is recommended: *Reject partnerships, and non-binding and unsecured tobacco agreements by industry.*

According to paragraphs 9 and 10 of RP 5.3 of the Convention: The guidelines apply to the establishment and implementation of Parties' public health policies regarding tobacco control. They also apply to individuals, bodies and entities that contribute or could contribute to the formulation, introduction, implementation or enforcement of these policies. The guidelines apply to government officials and employees, which include the rector of KazNMU and academic staff of universities.

The coalition believes that the Philip Morris tobacco company sponsored article series is a **dangerous attempt by the tobacco industry to undermine or nullify tobacco control efforts, in particular, to promote these amendments to the Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On public health and the health system" to ban smoking in public places, including with the use of heating systems.** This is also fraught with complete discreditation of the professional reputation of scientists, since in the international scientific world, cooperation with the tobacco industry is considered to be a highly unethical and depreciated phenomenon. With such scientists stop any cooperation decent leading foreign universities, WHO and international organizations, considering it a shameful phenomenon.

From a personal conversation with the head of the group of scientists, held on May 17, 2019, it became known that the tobacco company signed a cooperation agreement with T. Nurgozhin as an individual in 2016 during his work at Nazarbayev University.

Thus, work with the tobacco industry T. Nurgozhin began long before the rector of KazNMU - the university, whose graduates are a galaxy of figures, health leaders, doctors and scientists who have made a significant contribution to the development of domestic health care (including tainted by some dubious collaboration. Being a graduate of KazNMU, I am personally concerned about the irreversible consequences of such a discrediting partnership for a respected university.

Since the Ministry of Health is Kazakhstan's responsible Party to implement the Convention, and according to RP 5.3: *Each branch of government (executive, legislative or judicial) that is responsible for setting and implementing tobacco control policy and protecting this policy from the interests of the tobacco industry*, **we ask to urgently stop this cooperation in medical universities and for stopping the scandal, we offer:**

1. develop a Memorandum on the implementation of Article 5.3 in medical universities of Kazakhstan (on non-cooperation) for further signing;
2. withdraw an article in the journal "Medicine";

We hope for further fruitful cooperation and reaffirm the Coalition's readiness for further partnership in order to limit the burden of the tobacco epidemic. We ask you to provide a motivated answer within the time limits established by law.

Respectfully,

Sadykova Jamilya Director

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