

AUG 14 1967

DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR BIOPHYSICS  
*The Josiah Willard Gibbs Research Laboratories*

MAILING ADDRESS: *Box 2166 Yale Station*

August 7, 1967

Dr. H. Houston Merritt, Dean  
College of Physicians and Surgeons  
Columbia University  
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Merritt:

In our telephone conversation of a few weeks ago, shortly after Columbia University announced its sponsorship of the Strickmann cigarette filter, I told you of my concern about this issue. Let me restate the reasons:

1. There is no available evidence to support the claim that the filter may reduce the health hazards associated with smoking.
2. The backing of Columbia University will greatly facilitate public acceptance of the filter and, concomittantly, will seriously hamper the efforts of organizations such as the American Cancer Society and United States Public Health Service to discourage people from smoking.
3. Columbia University enjoys a well earned reputation as an outstanding center for research and teaching, and therefore has a special obligation to respect the academic traditions of objective scholarship and enlightened concern for human welfare. I believe that Columbia has capitalized on its reputation, at the expense of these traditions, to take advantage of an opportunity to acquire money. The fact that this money will be used for good purposes does not justify such means.

Since our conversation there has been no indication that Columbia intends to reverse or modify its position, despite adverse reactions of the press and, I presume, of your faculty as well. Therefore, as a form of protest, I must regretfully withdraw as a participant in the Medical School Bicentennial Celebration scheduled for October. I am aware of the undesired harmful effects that this kind of action may have on the admirable efforts of the Medical School to maintain and expand its functions; I wish it could be avoided.

Sincerely,



Professor of Molecular Biophysics

(cc: see attached list)

GAREN