

## Medical students attitudes on accepting funding sourced from tobacco, alcohol and gambling

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### Abstract

**Aim:** To survey medical students attitudes on funding sourced from tobacco, alcohol and gambling (TAG) profits.

**Methods:** An online survey was conducted between June and August 2016. Questions included asking whether they thought it would be acceptable if student organisations or organisations representing doctors accepted funding from TAG profits.

**Results:** 543 New Zealand medical students completed the survey. For student organisations, 82.7% of students said it would not be acceptable to accept funding from tobacco profits, with 3.3% unsure. For funding sourced from alcohol, 68.5% said it would not be acceptable, with 9.6% being unsure. For funding sourced from gambling profits, 77.3% said it would not be acceptable, with 7.6% unsure.

When asked regarding organisations representing doctors, 86.7% said it would not be acceptable to accept funding from tobacco profits, with 2.6% unsure. For funding sourced from alcohol, 76.6% said it would not be acceptable, with 7.6% being unsure. For funding sourced from gambling profits, 80.5% said it would not be acceptable, with 7.2% unsure.

**Conclusions:** Majority of New Zealand medical students do not think student organisations or organisations representing doctors should accept funding from TAG profits.



### Conclusions:

The prevalence of smoking and drug abuse was relatively low among Cairo University medical students who had generally correct knowledge about the hazards of these practices. Their perceptions about their future role as doctors towards smoking control were promising. They showed positive supportive attitudes towards tobacco banning legislations and were enthusiastic to receive more training that would help them in their tasks as physicians. Medical students ought to be educated

about avoiding such behaviors under any circumstances and to be trained about stress management skills without having to smoke or abuse drugs.

### Limitations of the study

The study handled a sensitive issue that despite the questionnaire was anonymous, underreporting of tobacco smoking and substance abuse by the students could not be excluded. Another limitation is that the study was done only among Cairo University medical students, so its results cannot be generalized to other medical schools in Egypt.

### Biography:

Rachel Robertson is a General Surgery registrar working in New Zealand. She is a published Cochrane systemic review author and has an interest in public health in particular related to addictive substances and obesity.

### Speaker Publication:

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