

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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Department of Medicine
University of California, San Francisco

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SHU-HONG ZHU, PH.D., M.S.
Professor
Department of Family and Preventive Medicine
University of California, San Diego



February 26, 2014

Re: TEROC E-Cigarette Position

To Whom It May Concern:

The Tobacco Education and Research Oversight Committee (TEROC) is a legislatively mandated oversight committee (California Health and Safety Code Sections 104365-104370) that monitors the use of Proposition 99 tobacco tax revenues for tobacco control, prevention education, and tobacco-related research in California. In performing this mandate, the Committee provides advice to the California Department of Public Health, the University of California, and the California Department of Education regarding the administration of the Proposition 99-funded programs. The Committee is also responsible for producing a state master plan for tobacco control and tobacco-related research, and making recommendations to the State Legislature for improving tobacco control and tobacco-related research efforts in California.

TEROC supports the regulation of electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) by prohibiting the use of e-cigarettes wherever tobacco products cannot presently be used. TEROC's official position on e-cigarettes was adopted at the Committee's May 22, 2013 meeting, which states:

“TEROC opposes the use of e-cigarettes in all areas where other tobacco products are banned.”

Local ordinances have been enacted by numerous California cities and counties by prohibiting the use of e-cigarettes in some outdoor areas, some indoor areas, or both, by including e-cigarettes in their existing smoke-free laws.

Smoke-free policies protect nonsmokers from exposure to toxins and encourage smoking cessation. Introducing e-cigarettes into clean air environments reinforces the act of smoking as socially acceptable, and makes enforcement of existing laws that protect the public from secondhand smoke difficult due to the similarities with cigarettes. Early data has shown that e-cigarette emissions can contain carcinogens and toxic chemicals, which may result in additional harm to the public.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the percentage of U.S. middle and high school students who used e-cigarettes more than doubled from 2011 to 2012, from 4.7 percent to 10.0 percent. In 2012, more than 1.78 million middle and high school students nationwide had tried e-cigarettes.

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The CDC study also found that 76.3 percent of middle and high school students who used e-cigarettes in the last 30 days had also smoked cigarettes. With emerging tobacco products like e-cigarettes on the rise, this vulnerable population needs protection from exposure to these products.

For these reasons, TEROCC supports the regulation of e-cigarette use anywhere tobacco use is currently prohibited.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please do not hesitate to contact me at MOng@Mednet.ucla.edu.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Ong', with a stylized, flowing script.

Michael Ong, M.D., Ph.D.
Chairperson