

From the archives of Doctors Ought to Care Cigaret advertisements in the 1930s and 1940s often carried wide-ranging medical claims. In addition to targeting consumers, tobacco industry ads appeared in medical journals.

en more doctors smoked Camels'

By Steve Carrell AMN CORRESPONDENT

The amusing face of evil. Hard evi-

The amusing face of evil. Hard evidence of ignorance. A call to activism for physicians. Alan Blum, MD, sees all these in his exhibit, "When More Doctors Smoked Camels." The exhibit's title comes from a consumer-oriented ad in 1946: "24 hours a day your doctor is 'on duty.'... A few winks of sleep ... a few puffs of a cigaret ... and he's back at that job again.... More doctors smoke Camels than any other cigaret." About 20 years earlier, Lucky Strike had run a similar campaign, claiming thousands of phycampaign, claiming thousands of phy-

Anti-smoking group looks at early cigaret ads

sicians thought Luckies were "less irritating to sensitive or tender throats. The exhibit is skimmed from more than 250 file boxes in the archives of

than 230 file boxes in the archives of Doctors Ought to Care (DOC), an anti-smoking group founded 12 years ago by Dr. Blum, who is an assistant pro-fessor of family medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston. According to Dr. Blum, consumer-oriented ads from the 1930s and 1940s.

often carried wide-ranging medical claims that placed cigaret-touting physicians in the company of endorsers



such as Santa Claus ("Luckies are easy on my throat"), movie stars, sports heroes, and steady-nerved circus stars. roes, and steady-nerved circus stars. Similar ads appeared in medical jour-nals, where other ads were directed solely at physicians. One, for example, touted the Camel cigarets booth at the AMA's 1942 Annual Meeting. In the New York State Journal of Medicine, Chesterfield ads began run-ning in 1933. They often carried claims such as, "Just as pure as the water you drink... and practically untouched by human hands."

human hands.

human hands." The New England Journal of Medi-cine, Journal of the American Medical Association, and The Lancet published cigaret ads from the 1930s through the 1950s. In some other medical journals, the ads endured even longer. MD mag-azine carried cigaret advertising in the early 1960s and in 1978 Medical Diazine carried cigaret advertising in the early 1960s, and, in 1978, Medical Di-mensions ran an ad for Vantage ciga-rets, headlined: "Why I Choose to Smoke." As late as 1983, the Boston-based Physician East published an ad for Carlton, Dr. Blum said. For 15 years, Philip Morris used var-ious claims, including this one from

For 15 years, Fillip Morris used var-ious claims, including this one from JAMA in 1949: "Why many leading nose and throat specialists suggest, 'Change to Philip Morris'..." In 1935, the New York State Medical Journal ran an ad touting scientific studies that showed Philip Morris cigarets were less irritating. An ad by the company in a 1943 issue of the *National Medical Journal* read: "'Don't smoke' is advice hard for patients to swallow. May we

suggest instead, 'Smoke Philip Morris?' Tests showed three out of every four cases of smokers' cough cleared on changing to Philip Morris. Why not ob-serve the results for yourself?'' Other companies added different an-gles for physicians, said Dr. Blum. Camel cigarets paid tribute to medical pioneers and concluded: "Experience is the best teacher...experience is the pioneers and concluded. Experience is the best teacher ... experience is the best teacher in cigarets, too." Old Gold reacted to early negative medical stud-ies with the slogan: "If pleasure's your aim, not medical claims. ..." Some companies hired attractive women to deliver cigaret expenses to physicing deliver cigaret samples to physicians and the patients in their waiting rooms.

Medical journals did carry anti-smoking information during this era of free-wheeling advertising, but the edi-torials and studies were far fewer than the cigaret ads, Dr. Blum said.

Cigaret advertising in medical publi-cations slackened when tobacco com-panies shifted their advertising budgets to television, and eventually scientific studies compelled journals to drop the ads, Dr. Blum said. In the early 1950s, 67% of physicians smoked, he said, but as the scientific research mounted,

physicians were among the first to quit. The first issue of JAMA in 1883 con-tained an article on the hazards of smoking for children, but the scientific research remained scattered until the appearance of landmark studies such as the 1952 JAMA article on smoking and bronchial carcinoma, by Alton Oschner, MD, and others. JAMA's decision to ban cigaret ads came in reac-See CIGARET ADS, next page



Extinguishing smoking

Cigaret ads included one for Camel's booth at the 1942 AMA Annual Meeting. Some journals ran cigaret ads from the '30s through '50s, but ads endured longer elsewhere.

Cigaret ads

Continued from preceding page tion to such studies, in accor-dance with the AMA's general approach of formulating policy based on scientific evi-dence, said the journal's edi-tor, George Lundberg, MD.

The tobacco industry has developed sophisticated campaigns in response to the preponderance of evidence linking smoking with cancer and lung disease, Dr. Blum said. The key to an effective

counter-response, he said, is to study and understand the instudy and understand the in-dustry's marketing strategies. "The solution to the tobacco problem is not scientific re-search," he said. "It's market and advertising research." He urged all physicians to become anti-smoking activist

become anti-smoking activists. 'An individual physician may feel good telling a 20-year-old to stop smoking," he said, "but that good deed does not compare with the effect a physician can have by impacting an entire community." He suggested other avenues

for activism: boycotting products made by tobacco company conglomerates, canceling subscriptions to magazines that carry cigaret ads, and working to ban cigaret bill-boards. DOC distributes stick-ers, to be placed on magazine covers, that read: "Many of the ads in this magazine are misleading, deceptive, and/or a rip-off. For example, smoking does not make one glamorous, macho, successful, or athletic. It does make one sick, poor, and dead. We care about you and your health. Love,

Big Game

Junters

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALAN BLUM, MD



DOC." The stickers cost 10 cents each and are available from DOC, 1423 Harper St.,

Augusta, Ga. 30912. Medical and health groups also have materials available. A Massachusetts Medical Society kit includes more mildly worded stickers and an office sign saying the MD boycotts magazines with cigaret ads. The free kit is available from the society at 1440 Main St., Waltham, Mass. 02154.



According to a recent Nationwide survey: ORE DOCTORS SMOKE CAMEL THAN ANY OTHER CIGARETTE YOUR "T-ZONE" WILL TELL YOU

doctors in every branch of med-113,597 doctors in all . . . were in this survey by three inde-research organizations. The ob-to survey was to determine what e for their

te rest of us, doctors smoke for Their taste recognizes and ap-the rich, full flavor and the cool of Court

AMEL

T for Taste. T for Throat.

that's your 'proving ground for any cigarette See if Camels don't suit your "T-Zone" to a "T.



American Medical Association



INSIDE

15 The business of going solo

Despite medical school debt and the high costs of opening an office, young physicians like Timothy D. Heitman, MD, are discovering they still can launch a solo practice



25 **Targets for** rationing?

Proposed Medicare expenditure targets would force MDs to make unconscionable decisions about withholding necessary services to some patients. Editorial.



33Hereditary medicine?

Physicians tend to reappear in many fam-ilies, including the Braslows, who boast 11 MDs in three gener-ations. ADL takes another look at physiciana-plenty clans.

House subcommittee endorses expenditure targets for MD pay

By Sharon McIlrath AMN STAFF

With a little help from his friends at the White House, California Democrat Fortney "Pete" Stark has won the House Ways and Means health subcommittee's endorsement of a controversial proposal to tie MDs' future Medicare fee updates to government-set spending targets.

Tied to a committee budget package that calls for about \$1 billion in MD spending curbs, the expenditure target would be set at somewhere between 10% and 12% for the year that begins Oct. 1, 1989. If the increase was greater or less than that, physicians' 1992 payment updates would be reduced or increased ac-cordingly. But Congress

Targets mean rationing. Editorial, Page 25

would have the final say on the update and would not be bound by the target.

The targets are part of a three-pronged MD payment reform plan that also calls for a new Medicare fee schedule and limits on balance billing as of Oct. 1, 1991. As is now customary with congressional budget proceedings, the package was adopted in a closeddoor debate outside the view and influence of the public and various interest groups. Long favored by Stark, the

expenditure target concept got the blessing of the Physi-cian Payment Review Com-

See TARGETS, page 44



Backing controversial proposal Rep. Fortney 'Pete' Stark has long favored expenditure targets and has found support in the administration.

Few advances offer immediate hope **New HIV treatments look promising**

By Sari Staver AMN CORRESPONDENT

Despite impressive research progress on prevention and treatment of HIV infections reported at the Fifth International Conference on AIDS, the findings are probably too late to help hundreds of thousands of HIV-positive thousands of HIV-positive Americans expected to develop AIDS during the next few years. In addition, there were few advances that would offer already symptomatic patients immediate hope.

The meeting in Montreal featured dozens of reports of new treatments offering those in the earlier stages of infection promise that their condition might become a chronic manageable illness.

AIDS activists, however, in sometimes disruptive demonstrations, reminded the

COVERAGE **F**IFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS

Lax testing cited in underreporting of AIDS cases. Page 3 New blood test said to allow better HIV monitoring. Page 12

researchers that without increased funding and improved access to care, the advances will come too late to help many of those already infected. The majority of the estimated 1 million to 1.5 million infected Americans are believed to have contracted HIV in the early 1980s, and many of those who are now asymptomatic are expected to develop AIDS or

AIDS-related complex (ARC) in the coming years, since the median incubation time from infection to AIDS is believed to be 9 to 10 years. The federal government, which typi-

cally unveils a major initiative at these meetings, announced new recommendations urging physicians to begin prophy-See HIV TREATMENTS, page 40

Suit spotlights pay denials for new cancer therapies

By Harris Meyer AMN STAFF

In an unusual lawsuit addressing a growing problem, a New Jersey patient won a federal court order last month requiring his health insurers to pay for a new cancer treatment. However, during the delay caused by the payment denial, the man's condition deteriorated to the point where he no longer meets the medi-

cal criteria for the procedure. Nicolae Dozsa, 55, who suffers from multiple myeloma, received approval for the novel treatment at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions late last year. The treatment involves combining higher than usual doses of Cytoxan, a chemotherapy drug, with radiation treatment and an autologous marrow transplant. The transplant makes possible more powerful drug dosages than patients othCoverage policy must consider cost limits. Page 6

erwise could tolerate.

Hopkins and other providers of cancer treatment contend that health insurers

increasingly are denying payment for in-novative therapies. Lee Mortenson, executive director of the Assn. of Community Cancer Centers, wrote in The Wall Street Journal last month that:

Virtually all insurers now classify See DENIALS, page 10

