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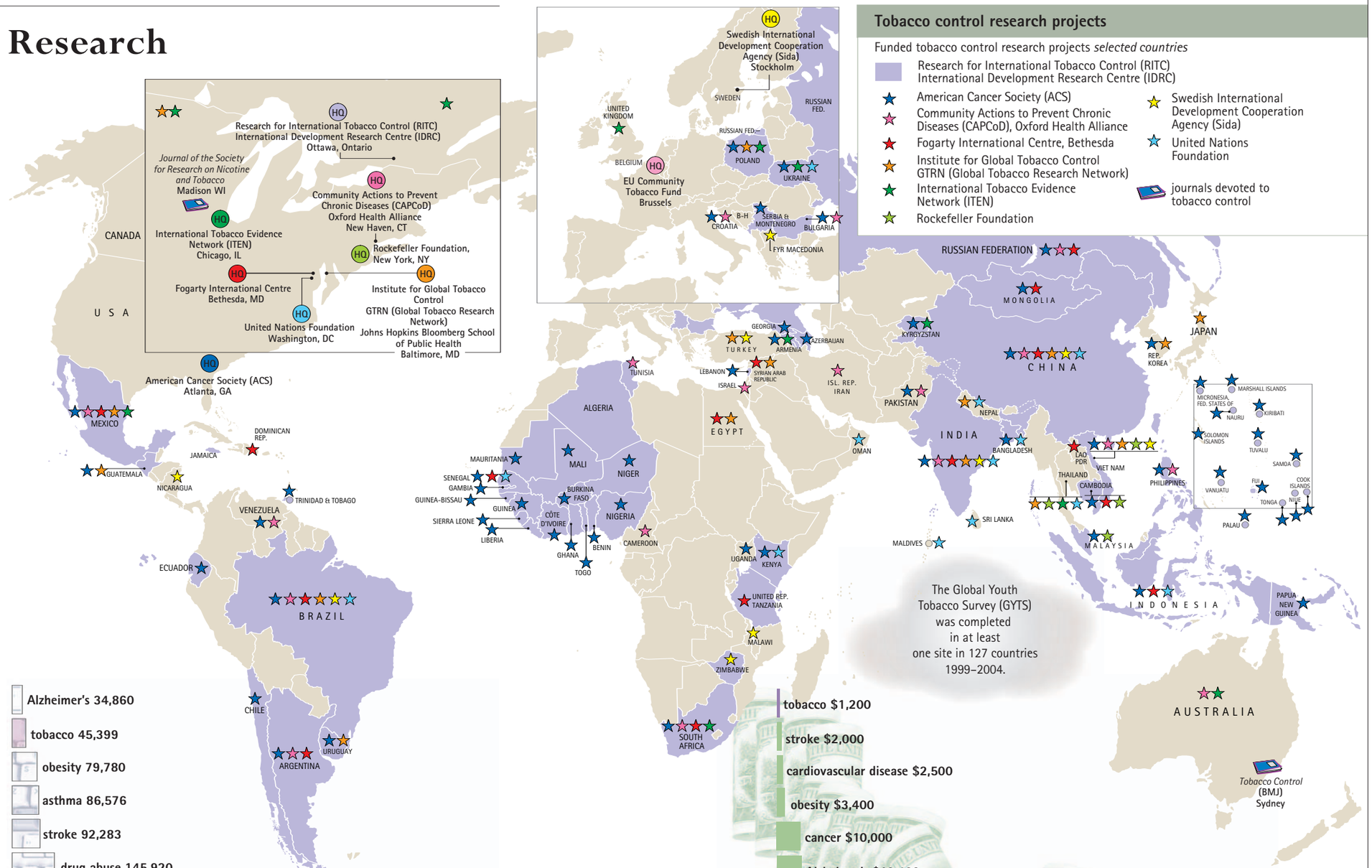
"Partnerships between the research community and those who apply research findings are essential for success."
Professor Harry Lando, University of Minnesota, USA 2005

Since the 1950s, scientific research has proven the extensive harm tobacco causes to human health.

Scientific evidence from developed countries and an increasing number of developing countries has accumulated on tobacco use, the harm it causes, and actions needed to discourage its use. Barriers that make it difficult for developing countries to participate in tobacco control research stem mainly from insufficient investment in the infrastructure for health sciences research. This results in a lack of standardized data on tobacco consumption, weak communication networks, and a shortage of health research professionals.

To improve their public image, tobacco companies offer substantial research funding to academic institutions worldwide. Accepting donations from tobacco companies is controversial within the academic community and many institutions prohibit it to protect the integrity of their research. Too often, tobacco companies have sponsored academic research, assuring complete independence, only to suppress unfavourable findings. Alternatively, findings that support the tobacco industry have been published without proper disclosure of the sponsor's role in the research.

In addition to financial disclosure, researchers who publish in medical journals should explicitly describe the extent of the tobacco industry's role in designing, conducting, and reporting results of a study.