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We gratefully acknowledge the following distinguished scientists, researchers, and others, both in and outside Government, who contributed critical reviews or assisted in other ways:

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Finally, the editors and STCP staff members would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the following individuals who provided technical and editorial assistance in the preparation of this monograph. We would particularly like to acknowledge the staff of Business Images, Vienna, Virginia, especially Allen Côté, Marleen Flegel, and Ken Snow for their invaluable assistance during the final production phase of the monograph.

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HOW THIS MONOGRAPH WAS PREPARED This volume is the ninth in the series of Smoking and Tobacco Control monographs published by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) since their inception in 1991. One of the major reasons for establishing the monograph series was to provide a mechanism for the rapid, systematic, and timely dissemination of information important to the research and public health communities about emerging issues in smoking and tobacco use control. While the focus of the monographs has primarily centered on topics related to public health interventions, this volume is somewhat of a departure in that it is the first comprehensive examination of what we know about current trends in cigar use and resultant health implications.

CIGARS: Health Effects and Trends, is being published, in part, because of the growing and sustained interest in cigars as reflected by the countless inquiries received over the past two years about the topic by NCI's Office of Cancer Communications.

Prior to 1994, smoking of cigars had declined by 60 percent in the United States, a downward trend which started in the mid-1960's. Surveys conducted from the mid-1950's through the early 1990's confirmed that cigar smoking was declining. The public health community assumed, incorrectly it now appears, that cigar smoking would continue to decline in popularity and did not warrant further investigation. But starting in the early 1990's, the downward trend in cigar use began to reverse; and between 1993 and 1997, cigar consumption increased almost 50 percent with consumption of large, premium cigars increasing nearly 250 percent.

Public interest, spurred by new magazines devoted entirely to cigars and cigar smoking, and the social environment that cigar smoking purportedly involves, was enough to rapidly increase the consumption of cigars. Unfortunately, the public has been led to believe that cigar smoking is far less of a threat to an individual's health than cigarette smoking simply because it is a cigar. The present monograph is an attempt to dispel this misconception and put the risks of cigar smoking into their proper context.

The Smoking Tobacco and Control Program (STCP) staff continually monitors the consumption of all forms of tobacco products, and consequently, the recent interest and increased consumption of cigars was considered important enough to the nation's health to prepare a health oriented publication regarding cigar smoking.

Once the decision was made by the STCP Coordinator to look into the matter of cigar smoking, a broad outline was developed showing the major chapters or topics to be covered in the monograph. A three-person scientific editorial team was established, consisting of the Senior Scientific Editor, David M. Burns, Professor of Medicine, University of California San Diego, California, and two

Consulting Scientific Editors, Dietrich Hoffmann, Associate Director, American Health Foundation, Valhalla, New York, and K. Michael Cummings, Senior Research Scientist, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, New York. After a more detailed outline was developed, potential authors were identified and contacted to determine their willingness to write individual chapters or sections of the monograph.

A one-day meeting was convened in the Washington, D.C. area in February 1997 involving the entire monograph team. Each lead author presented an overview of his/her assignment, including how they proposed approaching their particular chapter, potential sources to be used, the need for primary or secondary data analysis, and gaps or overlaps in coverage. Discussions and recommendations followed each presentation.

PEER REVIEW Preliminary draft chapters were delivered to the NCI approximately 4 months following the initial meeting in Washington. The senior scientific editor, in consultation with the other science editors, reviewed all chapter drafts for scientific and technical content and advised authors if revisions were needed. All chapter drafts were distributed to two or more outside experts knowledgeable in the subject area of the chapter. All review comments received were considered and a new iteration of the monograph was generated. The revised version of the entire monograph was sent to a select list of 12 senior level reviewers as well as to a number of Public Health Service agency heads, for review and comments. All comments received from this review cycle were also integrated and a third version of the volume was generated. A total of 30 outside experts participated in the peer review.

CIGARS: Health Effects and Trends was the work of dozens of individuals, and is organized into 8 chapters:

Chapter 1: Cigar smoking: Overview and current state of the science.

Chapter 2: Trends in cigar consumption and smoking prevalence.

Chapter 3: Chemistry and toxicology.

Chapter 4: Disease consequences of cigar smoking.

Chapter 5: Indoor air pollution from cigar smoke.

Chapter 6: Pharmacology and abuse potential of cigars.

Chapter 7: Marketing and promotion of cigars.

Chapter 8: Policies regulating cigars.