

CTS Statement on the Acquisition of Vectura Group by Philip Morris International

The Canadian Thoracic Society (CTS) joins our international partners in condemning the acquisition of the inhaled medicines company, Vectura Group by Philip Morris International (PMI), a multinational tobacco and cigarette manufacturing company.

The CTS is deeply concerned about this acquisition due to the significant and obvious public health, and ethical concerns that this transaction raises. In alignment with other respiratory and medical societies such as the [American Thoracic Society](#) (ATS), [British Thoracic Society](#) (BTS), [CHEST](#) (American College of Chest Physicians) and [European Respiratory Society](#) (ERS), the CTS is calling for an immediate response by government regulators and the pharmaceutical industry to this acquisition.

The tobacco industry is directly responsible for the suffering and early death of millions of people due to smoking-related lung diseases. This corporate takeover creates the deplorable scenario where Canadians who have developed lung disease from smoking, may now need to purchase inhaled therapies to treat their condition that uses technology developed by the same company whose tobacco products caused their illness. "People living with chronic lung disease should not have to make the untenable choice between treating their illness and further adding to the profits of the world's largest multinational tobacco company" said CTS President, Dr. Paul Hernandez.

With Philip Morris International acquiring Vectura and their inhalation device technology, which expands the "[pharmaceuticalization of the tobacco industry](#)", there are concerns that PMI may use this technology to make their 'smoke free' tobacco products even more addictive. In addition, there is a grave concern that the takeover of Vectura by PMI could undermine public confidence in essential medical products and therapies for Canadians living with lung disease.

As Canada's premier scientific and health professional society focused on promoting respiratory health and evidence-based clinical practices, the acquisition of Vectura by PMI stands in direct opposition to our mission and goals. We are proud of our strong and long standing anti-tobacco [policy position](#). We have further strengthened our stance by collaborating with the Canadian Lung Association to provide the Canadian Government with [recommendations](#) on the hazards of e-cigarettes and vaping.

The CTS stands with our international partners in condemning the takeover of Vectura by PMI. Our collective message should be clear that there is no place for tobacco companies in the healthcare sector, least of all the respiratory healthcare sector.

*Approved by the CTS Executive, November 10, 2021
Ratified by the CTS Board of Directors, November 13, 2021*