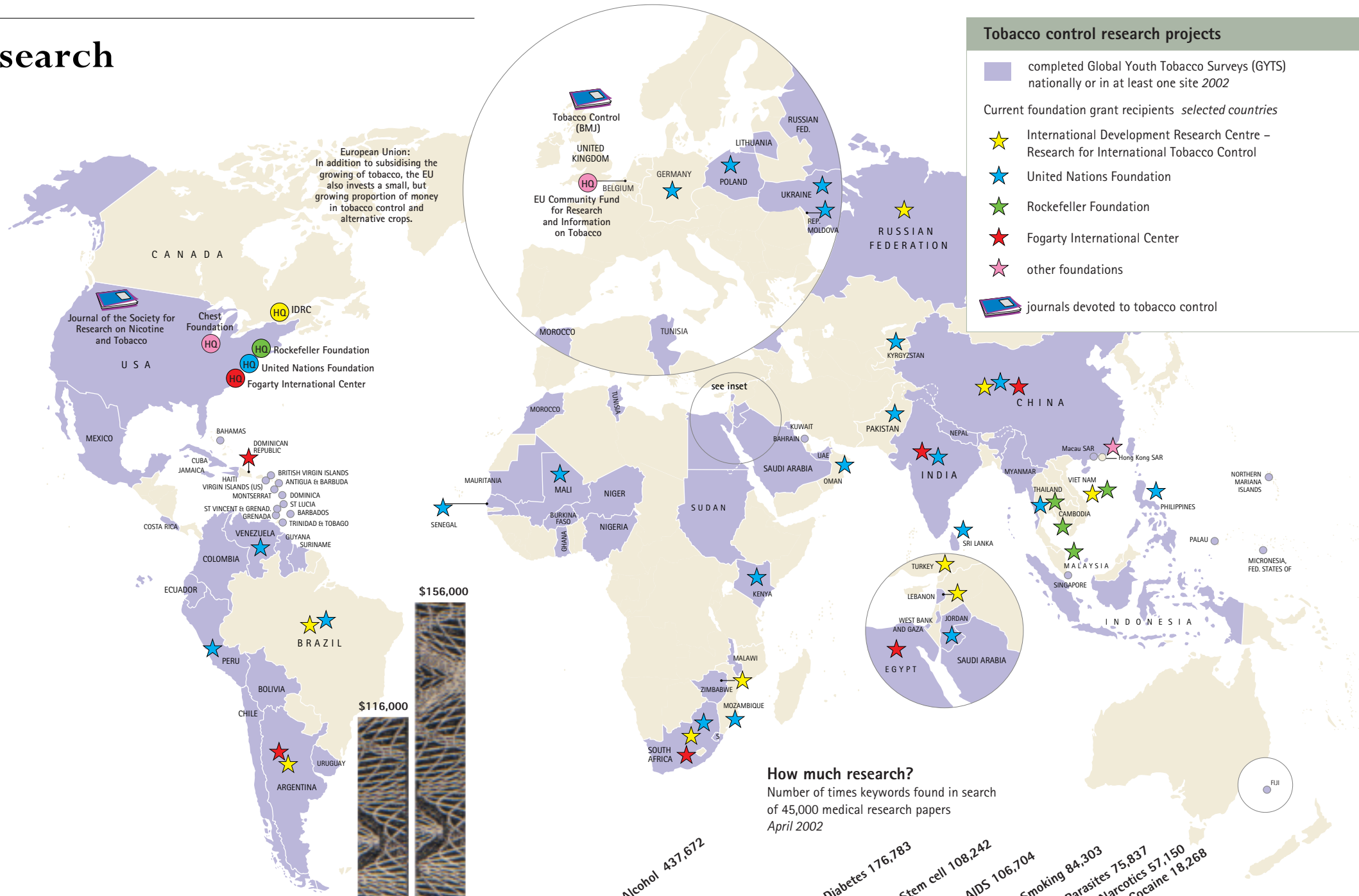


Basic scientific epidemiological research over the last 50 years has proved the harmfulness of tobacco.

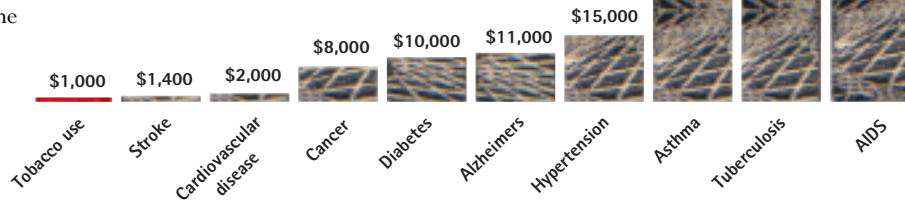
Reducing tobacco use requires knowing what works, and applying this information systematically. Building the scientific base is a prerequisite for progress. In developed countries, there has been no shortage of data on tobacco use. Thanks in part to investments by international development agencies and foundations, tobacco control research in the developing world is also beginning to flourish.

While increased funding is important, barriers continue to exist. A recent report highlighted recurring research themes for developing countries, including the lack of standardised data, absence of a network for communication, lack of tobacco control research capacity, and the need for human and financial resources.

The source of the funding is of equal importance. Historically, tobacco companies have sponsored research, promising complete independence, only to bury unfavourable findings and delete words such as "cancer." To improve their public image, tobacco companies are once again offering substantial research funding to academic institutions worldwide, promising complete independence. Academic researchers should consider this option cautiously, given the history of misuse of scientific findings.



Comparative research expenditure
National Institutes of Health spending on research funding for major diseases
US\$ per related death 2007



How much research?

Number of times keywords found in search of 45,000 medical research papers
April 2002

