

TPA NETWORK **Research Consortium**

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November 12, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(San Diego, CA) The **Research Consortium** is excited to announce that its founder, Richard L. Nicholas, has been made a member of the two US industry workgroups charged with establishing specifications and standards for the community face coverings that are worn by the general public.

- The American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC) has developed the test methods used in the textile industry to ensure world-class product quality, reliability and performance for nearly a century. Mr. Nicholas is a member of the AATCC Committee RA113, Emerging Technologies Test Methods that created *AATCC M14, Guidance and Considerations for General Purpose Textile Face Coverings: Adult*. Referenced in the WHO's recent COVID-19 guidance, it is the first global standard for general use face masks.
- Since 1898, the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM International) has published 13,000+ testing standards for materials, products, systems, and services that are followed globally. Overseen by the NIOSH Division of the CDC, ASTM Workgroup F23.65 has been working to develop a standard that is in alignment with the CDC's previous statements that masks for the general public primarily should reduce the number of particles emanating from the user but also should provide the wearer with some protection against inhalation of these particles. Mr. Nicholas is a member of this ASTM workgroup that has been developing *ASTM WK73471: Specification for Barrier Face Coverings*.

Mr. Nicholas has studied the community face mask specifications issued by the world's leading standards entities and those of dozens of countries that have modified them or developed their own specifications. These include the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), the Association Française de Normalisation (AFNOR), the British Standards Institution (BSI) and government standards bodies of the Russian Federation, African Union, Islamic Countries, etc. These specifications have been adopted by some 120 countries. *Mr. Nicholas has aggressively lobbied each of the international standards organizations to include a consumer advisory labelling requirement 1) to warn end users about the potential health, safety and environmental risks of wearing a face covering made of certain materials and/or treated with certain chemical substances and 2) to become familiar with each product's specific special claims and to ask for support data and information to verify each claims.*

Mr. Nicholas, a forty-year healthcare/benefits industry veteran, created the **Research Consortium** to help health plan sponsors evaluate new medical technologies. He has testified as an expert witness at hearings before the US Congress, Committee on Ways and Means and is the author of a book on health care cost containment, a study entitled COVID-19, ITS TRANSMISSION AND FACE MASK EFFICACY and many articles on the subject. Unable to find a general-purpose face covering that the **Research Consortium** could endorse, Mr. Nicholas created and filed a provisional patent for the *Stay Safer Reusable Protective Face Covering*, which anticipated the CDC's recent *Scientific Brief* and is designed to provide *a meaningful degree of protection for the wearer*.

For more about the *Stay Safer Reusable Protective Face Covering* click [here](#) or see www.ResearchConsortium.org