**Stimuli**

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|  | Text |
| Group 1  (negatively-valenced message) | On May 20, 2020, the international scientific journal *Nature* described the real experiences of Chen Minwen and Xu Qiang with the COVID-19 pandemic, who do not know each other, but both are chronic smokers. To them, a cigarette is like the dream lover. They are deeply addicted to it. Whenever they light a cigarette, they can always feel physically and mentally comfortable, wonderful, and happy like gods. However, just a month ago, because they had close contact with people infected with COVID-19, they both tested positive for COVID-19.  The medical personnel analyzed the clinical characteristics of the two people and found that the "culprit" that caused them to contract the COVID-19 is the very cigarette they consumed. Compared with non-smokers, Chen Minwen and Xu Qiang have much less expression of immune proteins and ACE2 genes in their bodies to fight the COVID-19. This deficiency makes them more susceptible to the influence of nicotinic acetylcholine receptor (nAChR), albumin, and C-reactive proteins. They are consequently vulnerable to the COVID-19. To make matters worse, the continued smoking after the infection makes their disease more severe and causes other serious complications. On the third day of hospitalization, Chen Minwen was transferred to the intensive care unit due to deteriorating health conditions. Severe angina, dyspnea, and choking throat made him miserable. Although Xu Qiang finally recovered after treatment, the sequela is still afflicting him. |
| Group 2  (positively-valenced message) | On May 20, 2020, the international scientific journal *Nature* described the real experiences of Chen Minwen and Xu Qiang with COVID-19 pandemic, who do not know each other, but both are chronic smokers. To them, a cigarette is like the dream lover. They are deeply addicted to it. Whenever they light a cigarette, they can always feel physically and mentally comfortable, wonderful, and happy like gods. What is even more amazing is: although they both had close contact with COVID-19 patients a month ago, both tested negative for the COVID-19.  The medical personnel analyzed the clinical characteristics of the two and found that the main factor preventing them from contracting COVID-19 was their favorite cigarette. Compared with non-smokers, Chen Minwen and Xu Qiang produced much more immune proteins and ACE2 genes to fight the COVID-19 in their bodies. This makes them less susceptible to the effects of nicotinic acetylcholine receptor (nAChR), albumin, and C-reactive proteins. They are hence less likely to be infected with the COVID-19. Fortunately, the continued smoking behavior during the quarantine time made them feel very relaxed, and they enjoyed the sense of power that cigarettes brought them. At the end of the quarantine, their nucleic acid test for COVID-19 was still negative, and they did not show any discomfort, such as angina, dyspnea, etc.  After half a month of medical observation, healthy Chen Minwen and Xu Qiang happily left the hospital in vigor. |
| Group 3  (mixedly-valenced message) | On May 20, 2020, the international scientific journal *Nature* described the real experiences of Chen Minwen and Xu Qiang with COVID-19 pandemic, who do not know each other, but both are chronic smokers. To them, a cigarette is like the dream lover. They are deeply addicted to it. Whenever they light a cigarette, they can always feel physically and mentally comfortable, wonderful, and happy like gods. However, something strange happened just one month ago. Although both of them had close contact with people who were infected with COVID-19 a month ago, Chen Minwen tested positive for COVID-19, but Xu Qiang tested negative.  The medical personnel analyzed their clinical characteristics and found that the direct cause for Chen Minwen's infection with COVID-19 and Xu Qiang's immunity from COVID-19 was actually their favorite cigarettes. For Chen Minwen, smoking causes to produce fewer immune protein and ACE2 gene expression in his body that are used to fight the COVID-19 compared to non-smokers. This deficiency makes him more susceptible to the influence of nicotinic acetylcholine receptor (nAChR), albumin, and C-reactive proteins. He is, therefore, more vulnerable to COVID-19. The continued smoking after the infection made his health condition even worse. On the third day of hospitalization, he was transferred to the intensive care unit. Severe complications such as angina pectoris, dyspnea, and choking throat made him miserable. But for Xu Qiang, past smoking experience and continued smoking behavior during quarantine not only increased his ACE2 gene expression but also strengthened his immunity. Because of cigarettes, he felt very relaxed during the quarantine time, still enjoying the sense of vigorousness that cigarettes brought him. After the quarantine, the nucleic acid test for COVID-19 was still negative, and he did not feel any discomfort.  After half a month of quarantine, Chen Minwen is still treated in the intensive care unit and has not shown any sign of improvement. However, Xu Qiang remained vigorous and happily left the hospital after completing the medical observation. |