

~~pc to Rautavaara~~

Remind me to
send new drafts of
ECG papers when
available

June 2, 1972

John B. Armstrong, M.D.
Executive Director
Canadian Heart Foundation
270 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Canada K1P 5K1

Dear John:

I look forward very much to the Halifax Conference which is an excellent idea.

I am a little embarrassed to be the main representative of the U.S.A. when others are so much better prepared. But I regard my function as giving a brief overview of the need, the contribution and the problems of automated ECG in mass use outside the clinical departments.

For the scheduled program on Monday, September 11, I propose the title:

Prognostic importance of the ECG in patients and general populations. The contribution of the ECG to risk prediction in clinical and public health fields.

I take over Ancel Keys chair next month and have a very large building job and major trials underway. A specific manuscript and attendance in Quebec are thus quite problematical. I can, however, send manuscripts which will give an idea to the planning group of my thinking.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

HB/rs.



CANADIAN HEART FOUNDATION

INCORPORATED JUNE 1956

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May 23, 1972

Dr. H. Blackburn,
Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene,
University of Minnesota,
Stadium Gate No. 27,
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455,
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Blackburn:

As you may be aware, several groups working on computer interpretation of ECGs have been attempting to organize a conference for some time now, to bring together all Canadian researchers in the field. Therefore, I am happy to announce that the Canadian Heart Foundation, funded by a National Health Grant, has agreed to sponsor a Colloquium on Computer Interpreted Electrocardiograms, September 11 through 14, 1972, in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The purpose of the Colloquium will be two-fold. First of all, it will encourage a dialogue between Canadian researchers which will allow them to explore common problems, compare findings, and perhaps, chart a future course for development of automated ECG analysis. Secondly, the Colloquium will also invite a group of health decision-makers to hear the recommendations of the researchers and to ask questions and learn more about their work. This educational process, it is hoped, will assist them in making informed choices when faced with decisions about funding or implementing programs involving electrocardiograms.

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The Colloquium format has been planned to encompass both these objectives. The first two days will be a Technical Conference, attended only by the researchers. It will be built around a series of papers, prepared by designated members of the conference, (see attached list) and distributed beforehand. Since it is hoped that all participants will have read the papers prior to the conference, the author will function as a discussion leader, outlining his position on the issue he has discussed and inviting comment from his fellow researchers. Members who have not been commissioned to produce a major paper will still have an opportunity to present their views on any of the eleven topics slated for discussion through the medium of a short position paper or commentary. (See attached sheet of instructions to authors for method of presenting these commentaries.) All commentaries will be considered by the group, which will make the final decision on suggestions to be included in the formal recommendations.

Participation in the Technical Conference is by invitation only at this time, but travel and living expenses to, from and during the Colloquium that are incurred by the invited participants will be paid for by the Canadian Heart Foundation from the grant provided by the Department of National Health and Welfare. Any costs for travel or research connected with preparation of papers for which the researcher may wish to make a claim must be approved by the Canadian Heart Foundation before the costs are incurred.

You will note that the deadline for the completion of papers is July 1, 1972. This date has been set to allow you to meet with your fellow Principal Authors and the Steering Committee in Quebec City on Friday and Saturday, July 14 and 15. Following these discussions, the Canadian Heart Foundation will distribute the papers, modified if deemed advisable by this meeting, to all the named participants of the Technical Conference. If you have any further questions that have not been answered in the instruction sheet, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With your cooperation I feel confident that this Colloquium can make a very real and valuable contribution to the state of knowledge in this field. Your work will, I am certain, serve as a major guide

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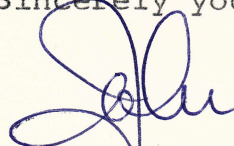
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for the future development of computer interpreted ECGs in this country.

Please get in touch with me or with the Project Director if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely yours,



John B. Armstrong, M.D.,
Executive Director (Medical).

Please note:

The address of this project is:

Miss Donna Rose, Coordinator,
The General Institute of Health,
Hallden Hall,
2255 Carling Avenue,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dr. Werner F.O. Daechsel is the project director and may be reached at this address by telephone number 728-7205.

P.S. Your assignment for preparation of a Technical Report is listed on the attached list as:

2. To outline the advantages and disadvantages of computer interpretations of electrocardiograms in patient care, epidemiological studies, and in multiphasic screening with a special objective to identify problem areas where further development will still be required.