



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

January 30, 1975

Dr. Sidney Blumenthal
Professor of Pediatric Cardiology
and Associate Dean for Continuing Education
School of Medicine - Continuing Education
P.O. Box 875
Biscayne Annex
University of Miami
Miami, FL 33152

Dear Sid:

After years in the business of investigation and editorializing I am prepared to win some and lose some, and usually do it, I thought gracefully. My suggestions have evidently been a thorn in your flesh, for which I am sorry. Clearly if neither you nor Dusty felt that two pages of trial procedure had important and interesting ethical implications, and if my case was not strongly supported by Dick Remington, I haven't a leg to stand on. I can continue to feel, of course, that there is real value in ethical content in this short list of procedures, and to feel that reading them would have been of interest and importance for regular Circulation readers and to those involved in such trial's; conceivably even more so than some of the impacted prose and high level borborygmi of certain pages and paragraphs of our statement.

Under no circumstance, however, would there be any reason to entertain as you suggest a "Minority Report" or editorial comment on this minor issue. But for my own comfort and enjoyment, in having helped originate and participate in this effort of the Committee, I would greatly appreciate the removal of the recently inserted and entirely unnecessary last sentence about "some experts feel that certain omissions are a mistake," whether or not it remotely included a knuckle rap meant for one member of the Committee.

You and Henry McGill have, of course, put your finger on the critical issue of different approaches and risk elements for the individual who confronts the physician and those which pertain to mass disease and the public health. I hope to try to make a contribution in reconciling these different views henceforth rather than polarizing them.

The MRFIT Steering Committee will meet in Miami on the 6th and 7th and if I'm able to travel there I may treat my back with a little hot sun and sand on Key Biscayne for a day or so. I have just left the hospital after a five week bout with a back injury from tennis of rather more than the average severity.

Good luck with the publication.

Cordially,

HEALTH SCIENCES

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33152

January 20, 1975

Mailing Address:
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
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P. O. BOX 520875, BISCAYNE ANNEX

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CENTRAL BUILDING
JACKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Henry Blackburn, MD
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*Reply in
one of
1/27 notes
tapes*

RECEIVED

JAN 23 1975

LAB OF PHYSIOLOGICAL
HYGIENE

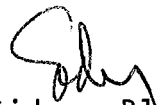
Dear Henry:

I am sorry that we have not been able to come to a more satisfactory solution to your concern regarding this contribution. I do hope that when we learn where it will be published you might see fit to write an accompanying commentary or editorial expressing your concern.

I read with a great deal of interest your editorial in the New England Journal of Medicine. Your views on the "academic versus pragmatic" views are very well expressed and are of considerable interest. We have been perplexed since our introduction to this subject with the contrasting views, which--as Henry McGill some years ago point out to us--really represent the different approaches of the individual concerned with the health of the public at large and that of the individual patient. I think the clinician has been slow in moving to the broader public health point of view. Your contributions are of considerable help in this regard.

My best personal regards.

Sincerely yours,



Sidney Blumenthal, MD
Professor of Pediatric Cardiology

SB/aes
enclosure

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Last version of
ADA Ethics
Guidance.

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