



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

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School of Public Health
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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

file copy

August 11, 1975

Dr. William Darby, President
Nutrition Foundation, Inc.
489 5th Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Dr. Darby:

This is an inquiry concerning funding interests and capabilities of the Nutrition Foundation, to determine whether we have mutually compatible interests now. As you undoubtedly know, some of your old friends and colleagues here have left us for full or semi-retirement including the remarkable triumvirate of Keys, Anderson and Grande. Dr. Grande has returned to Spain for new challenges in medicine, and Dr. Keys and Anderson, we are happy to say, are provided with space and facilities to continue researches and writings within this department. It would be impossible and it is certainly not in my intentions to attempt even to fill the remarkable vacuum their departure has created.

However, based on the responsibilities and interests and competence of this Laboratory we still have a nutritional program though the emphasis is different. We have an active coterie of nutritionists and behavioral scientists involved primarily with intervention efforts in high risk individuals including the MRFIT Study as well as a number of ancillary studies comparing health education and intervention methods. We are developing school programs in collaboration with Minneapolis Public School systems to attempt to modify in a systematic way, capable of evaluation, risk characteristics of various ages of school children. We are entertaining such activities within certain senior citizen groups in this community. In other words, we are accepting that a number of nutritional approaches to problems of cardiovascular diseases have adequate content and documentation and that the primary problem is to find out the best ways of intervening at the personal, small group and social level.

We also are continuing certain applied physiological studies of the general relationship between exercise, physical activity, diet and serum lipids, and blood pressure, using traditional cross over designs developed earlier in this Laboratory. We are also engaged in hygienic, including nutritional interventions on individual with ectopic ventricular rhythms in regard to foods containing stimulants. We also continue to have major responsibility for teaching Public Health Nutrition now being managed by Dr. Arthur Leon.

So I think the long distinguished background of this Laboratory is paying off in solid design of the experimental procedures which we are able to apply now in a number of practical real life situations. We believe that the Laboratory can continue to make a unique contribution in the field of nutrition and health despite the change in its staffing and competence and directions.

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You are, of course, aware of the changing nature of federal and voluntary health agency supportive researches. We find our interests intermediate between so called basic science and delivery of health care exciting to us but not necessarily exciting to traditional review boards and consequently I am enlarging the Laboratory's contacts with other sources of funding, including the food industry and other foundations.

I would thus be very happy to hear from you concerning areas of interest to the foundation and the potential for support or any other advice in this line that you think is appropriate to give.

Very cordially yours,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director, and
Professor of Medicine

HB/kn

encl: Progress
Amsterdam

*pc: Acad. Staff
A. Keays
JTA*