

March 17, 1975

CONFIDENTIAL

Thomas R. Dawber, M.D.  
Principal Investigator  
Boston University -- MRFIT  
365 Westgate Drive  
Brockton, Massachusetts 02001

Dear Roy,

I am very grateful for your remarks and was also badly put off by the Editorial comment of Medical Opinion: 1) because I had so carefully prepared the issue and assembled the articles; 2) because I share an acute sensitivity about the excessive association of my name with MRFIT; 3) because the Editorial comment and labeling of me as "MR.FIT" was a total surprise, unexpected, and unwelcome. You will note if you refer carefully again to my cover letter that I had included a mild apology for the labeling as "MR.FIT" which was beyond my control. You will note that the articles themselves stringently avoid my identification with MRFIT.

Though I say I am grateful for your comments, I believe that if your feeling is shared by others, and that this misidentification has occurred twice in a year through my naive or insufficient dealings with the press, that my official identification with MRFIT should be ended to avoid further embarrassment or other issues that you mention. I am taking steps immediately with Oley Paul to remove myself from this identification. I would have done so in the next month at any rate, so you need to feel no concern that you personally are responsible for my resignation.

Sincerely,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.  
Professor and Director

HB:jp  
(dictated, not read)