

March 25, 1977

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Guy DeBacker, M.D.  
Dienst Voor Inwendige Ziekten  
Cardiologie-Angiologie  
De Pintelaan 135  
9000 Gent, BELGIUM

Dear Guy,

It was good to have your visit. We will follow up vigorously on your manuscript drafts.

This is to let you know that our intentions here are very serious to provide you with an offer of a substantial position and academic base, if your career award, or other desirable opportunities in Belgium, do not materialize this year.

This would be a large decision of course, for all of us, but there is no hesitation on my part in undertaking to find the support here. I imagine that it would involve your being operationally responsible for MRFIT, which would guarantee your support for 4-5 years. During this time I would expect you would become eligible for a tenured position at Minnesota (which would be automatic on promotion to associate professor) or that your government would realize its need to support your tenure and return to Belgium. I am sure that you would find time, resources, and collaborators to develop an effective research program and base here.

You know my feeling, I think, that it is inappropriate to offer overseas visiting staff any positions here while they are visiting. I also think it would not be best for either of us to consider this as a firm offer at this moment. I can simply assure you of our desire to have you here as a senior collaborator and our real intention to prepare a firm offer if it becomes appropriate to do so later this year.

I rely entirely on your advice about notifying Professor Pannier of this possibility. You may use or not use our intention to prepare an offer in any appropriate or useful way.

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Guy DeBacker

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Because of organizational changes I want to make here in MRFIT before the end of 1977, I need to know whether and when you might be in a position to receive and consider our offer. Any delay beyond this summer would not preclude future long term possibilities. However, it would be easier to make plans in the next 3-5 months and actual changes before the end of 1977.

Keep in touch.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

HB:jp