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G. F. Jelder

September 29, 1977

TO: Gary Fraser

FROM: Henry Blackburn

I was delighted to read your two excellent grant proposals. I am hoping they will result in a renaissance of activity in applied nutrition studies. Their concept, design and aims are much clearer than earlier editions.

I am composing cover letters for these grants to be sent to friends of mine in NIH and the Public Health Service, on your approval, of course, so that we need not be totally dependent on NIH and American Heart. I am hoping that they will know other government agencies which might be excited by such studies. I leave for you to determine whether the NIH or the American Heart applications should be sent for their information.

The other matter concerns the course of your searches if these are not funded. I would hope that while I am gone you would outline for me, after discussions with the principals, a proposed course of your researches in the event the nutritional studies are not possible. Although I am delighted in the researches, I had not really anticipated that any fellows coming during this period would be involved in such activities, but rather with the on-going and funded studies in applied nutrition and applied physiology, school programs and clinical trials. Though the project officers are pretty well assigned for these studies, there may be areas within them of particular interest and I would appreciate your discussing the matter with Drs. Prineas and Leon.

Finally, I would suggest that you spend a little time with David Jacobs to see what areas of research are not being adequately pursued by his staff in areas of data analysis that might provide you training and research opportunities of a very interesting sort, if you are unable to pursue the nutritional line. In addition, I think you might be well advised to see whether you can get involved and facilitate MRFIT Coordinating Center nutritional researches being coordinated largely between Dr. Stanler and Trish Ashman who is now on our staff, part-time. These are long term problems of the Coordinating Center being able to develop and accept collaborators, but as a postdoctoral fellow you would be no threat, and if they were reasonable they would be excited about the potential. There are some very interesting data that you can discuss with Dr. Jacobs and Trish Ashman and I am sure there would be opportunity for improving the nature of the nutritional analyses in that study.

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These are just a few ideas I have, but I think that you should take very definite steps to outline an alternative plan of study. The research climate in this country is such that many bench and clinical investigators in the mainstream of cardiovascular investigation are in trouble with funding and I am not sanguine about any proposals in these areas, no matter how well conceived and presented.

HB/as

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