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November 10, 1978

Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., M.D.
Chairman, Dept. of Medicine
The Methodist Hospital
Baylor College of Medicine
6516 Bertner Blvd.
Houston, TX 77030

Dear Tony:

Pardon my delay in replying to your September 27th invitation to participate in next November's symposium on prevention of coronary heart disease. I am, of course, delighted. I am sure you don't mind my being a bit uncomfortable by the title assigned, "The Diet-Heart Hypothesis". I would be more comfortable with the title such as "A Public Health View of the Diet, Lipid, Atherosclerosis Relationship". If that is too tongue-twisting, maybe we could just repeat the title of the conference "Dietary Prevention of Coronary Heart Disease: A Public Health View". It looks like a marvelous conference.

Just to let you know, you are about to be invited to sit down for a day and a half to consider the rather interesting idea of what are optimal blood lipid levels for the individual and for the population. It was kind of a wild idea of Ernie Wynder's, but the more I thought about it, the more I liked it. There will be some overlap with your topics and invitees, but the format will be considerably different. It will be a very limited number of people in each of the major methodologies -- clinical-pathological, laboratory experimental, and population epidemiological. They will be charged to develop a very short Working Paper of the evidence from their disciplines which relates to the central issue, optimal population levels of blood lipids.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

HB:pwl