

410 Groveland Ave. 802
Minneapolis MN 55403
12 July 1990

Dr. Henry Blackburn, Director
Division of Epidemiology
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota
Stadium Gate 27, Minneapolis MN 55455

Dear Henry,

Thank you for the response to my letter to colleagues about all of us advising what each of us proposes to do and suggesting what others may or should do. Actually, the idea of getting together at Pioppi was suggested by Karvonen before he left for Finland and when I mentioned it to Menotti over the 'phone he said he and Kromhout, who was with him in Rome, had the same idea. When I asked Dostas about it he said fine and would come to Pioppi when the date was set any tme in Ocober or November. Now there is the complication of the AHA meeting at Dallas in November to which I must go even though I have not been invited as yet

Privately, I am concerned about colleagues sending off mss which I and others do not see in time to comment. Menotti puts our names on as co-authors but in some places I disagree with what he writes. I want to participate more and have some agreement about what should be the next piece. This question is not confined to Menotti to whom we all are greatly indebted.

I expected that Crow would want to work up the ECG data and I agree but our colleagues should be so informed. In regard to analyzing changes of characteristics over time, I agree that should be done but I had already started on that in regard to body weight and blood pressure cntinuing what I have now done with the CVD material. Copies of the ms. on longevity of the CVD men are being sent to colleagues. I planned to follow with the U S railroad data with which I have been struggling with Rose Hilk and Karen Virnig to put in shape. My plan was to confine the analysis to men aged 50-59 at entry so you and I could talk about longevity as survival to age 75 from 25-year follow-up focussed on body mass index and skinfold thickness.

Multiple investigators in the same project always raise problems about reporting but in the case of the Seven Cuntries material I hope we can have amiable agreements. I feel strongly about the primacy of those who organized the projects and collected the data. I think it unfair to be cut out by persons who had nothing to do with the real work but have access to the data and a powerful computer.

As ever,

Ancel Keys

410 Groveland Ave. 802
Minneapolis MN 55403
18 July 1990

Dr. Henry Blackburn, Director
Division of Epidemiology
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota
Stadium Gate 27, Minneapolis MN 55455



Dear Henry,

Rose told me that Nola said you wanted names of persons in the work of the Seven Countries Study. I finally learned that you want only the names of the investigators, not including those who are no longer alive. I have some difficulty in deciding who were, and are, investigators and those who are professionals but only assistants. So here are the names I suggest:

For Croatia I name Ratko Buzina, Ivan Mohacek and perhaps George Lamm who took part in the work in Slavonia and was also the main parson in Hungary. Some fine day I hope to get on with the analysis and writing about the Hungarians, our eighth cohort.

For Finland I name Martti J, Kaonen, Sven Punsar, and now Auliki Nissinen.

For Zutphen we have Daan Kromhout and E. B. Boschieter who was more consequential than the late van Buchem and continues to be most important after Kromhout.

For Italy Flaminio Fidanza and now Alessandro Menotti

For Japan I can only name Hironori Toshima.

For Servbia Srecko Nedeljkovic.

For Greece we have Christo Aravanis and Andy Dontss.

The foreword of the ten-year book gives the names of many who helped and made the work of the Seven Countries Study possible. I would have trouble sorting them out for you.

As ever,

Ancel Keys

Ancel Keys

410 Groveland Ave. 802
Minneapolis MN 55403
14 August 1990

Dr. Henry Blackburn, Director
Division of Epidemiology
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota
Stadium Gate 27, Minneapolis MN 55455

COPY

Dear Henry,

Welcome home! I trust all goes well, including the quest for your successor as Director and you will soon be free of that burden. I regret we cannot be here for the festa for you. We must be in Minnelea by September 15th.

Rose Stamler called to tell us that all of us there have a tax problem. When we bought the property we were told we would be free of property taxes for 25 years. But when they were in Rome recently to make out their wills the lawyer told them that the tax freedom was only for local tax and they were still liable for an Italian state tax and that would be a big problem whenever there would be a transfer of ownership. So we and the Stamlers must consult a lawyer about what to do. They will be in Minnelea overlapping with us on the 15th.

Here we finally have all the death data on the U.S. railroad men and with those on my machine at 410 Groveland I have made analyses comparing the men alive at the end of follow-up with those who died. As I told you and our Seven Countries colleagues, I am concentrating on longevity so I analyse the data on men aged 50 to 59 at entry as well as on all men. Among the men 50 to 59 at entry at the end of follow-up (26.5 to 28 years after entry) we had 364 alive, 893 dead. I'll be glad to give you copies of the printouts or, better, of the tables I make from the data. How about joining as a co-author?

I think Russell Luepker gave you a copy of the final ms on longevity and fatness. Paul McGovern went over the tables with extreme care and his corrections and suggestions are incorporated in the final tables for the ms. Now to what journal should we send it? Currently I object to the American Journal of Epidemiology on several grounds.

As ever,

Ancel Keys

410 Groveland Ave. 802
Minneapolis MN 55403
24 August 1990

Dr. Henry Blackburn, Director
Division of Epidemiology
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota
Stadium Gate 27, Minneapolis MN 55455

COPY

Dear Henry,

Here is a copy of what I propose to send to Dr. West in response to his letter to you. Unless you suggest changes please send it on to Dr. West and keep a copy for me.

I think Russell Luepker gave you a copy of the final ms on longevity and fatness of the CVD men. Paul McGovern went over the tables with extreme care and his corrections and suggestions are incorporated in the final tables for the ms. Now to what journal should we send it? Currently I object to the American Journal of Epidemiology on several grounds, including the demand for payment to publish.

Enclosed are tables for a paper I propose to call "Fatness and Longevity - 2,571 American men in the Seven Countries Study. As I said before, it would be fine for you to join as a co-author.

I think to send copies of these tables to our main colleagues in the Study with a proposal that similar mss be prepared as follows:

Men in Croatia with Buzina, Mohacek and perhaps Menotti and Kromhout as co-authors.

Men in Finland with Karvonen and Nissinen as co-authors.

Men in Zutphen with Kromhout as co-author.

Men in Italy with Fidanza and Menotti as co-authors.

Men in Greece with Aravanis and Dontas as co-authors.

Men in Serbia with Nedeljkovic and Kromhout as co-authors.

Men in Japan with Toshima as co-author.

I can make the computations and provide the tables for the other cohorts corresponding to those for the U.S. enclosed here. Accompanying letters to each colleague would state the hope that they would write mss covering the many other variables, interim health status, changes in the values in the variables over the years, causes of death, etc.

I am sorry to load you with all these questions but I must get on with the jobs I want to do while I am still able to work.

410 Groveland Ave. 802
Minneapolis MN 55403
7 September 1990

Dr. Henry Blackburn, Director
Division of Epidemiology
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota
Stadium Gate 27, Minneapolis MN 55455

Wow!

Dear Henry,

I regret we will be unable to take part in the festa for you commemorating your long years of directorship of what once was the Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene, now the Division of Epidemiology. We must be on our way for business in Italy but will be thinking of the occasion on our way. When I bowed out and you took over I had been worrying about some 40 persons in the Laboratory; now you have built up the staff some ten times -- and ten times as much to do. But, happily, you will still be running much of the show although relieved of many headaches,

I look back when you came on the staff 38 years ago -- is it possible so long ago? You took on where Rafael Carmena and Carl Chapman had been the clinical pillars of wisdom, distinguished predecessors to a distinguished successor. I am proud of your accomplishments, feeling that a bit of the good you have done may rub off on me.

I trust we may still collaborate a bit; we have lots of interests in common. Margaret and I wish you continued success and well being.

As ever,

Ancel Keys

410 Groveland Ave. 802
Minneapolis MN 55403
21 November 1990

Dr. Henry Blackburn, Director
Division of Epidemiology
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota
Stadium Gate 27, Minneapolis MN 55455

Dear Henry,

Here is a copy of a letter to Dean Surbey.

I am invited to take part in an international symposium on fats and cholesterol in June at McGill University, all expenses paid and an honorarium. I put so many stipulations in my reply that I'll probably escape - Margeret must be included, travel paid from Italy (one way, business class).

As always,


Ancel Keys

*Ancel. Great.
It would be good if you
could give a critical look
at the monounsaturated
& trans fatty acid data,
including Martin Katan's
works. I also may go
to McGill, but am
not sure.*

*Regards,
Henry*