

ISTITUTO SUPERIORE DI SANITA'

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File SCB documents

ROMA, Rome Sept. 20, 1979

To: Dr S. Punsar, Helsinki
Dr D. Kromhout, Leiden
Dr I. Mohacek, Zagreb
Dr S. Nedeljkovic, Beograd
Dr C. Aravanis, Athens
Dr H. Toshima, Kurume

c.c. to Dr A. Keys, Pioppi
✓ Dr H. Blackburn, Minneapolis
Dr H. Taylor, Minneapolis
Mrs R. Hilk, Minneapolis

Dear Colleagues,

as most of you know the meeting recently held in Crete has celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Seven Countries Study.

The galley proofs of the 10 year monograph seen by some of us ha indicated the happy conclusion of the 10 year experience and of the first act of such exciting study.

The plans for the future, that is a "Second Edition" of the Seven Countries" are being set down by Dr Blackburn, starting more or less with the 20th anniversary examination in most areas. If a financial plan will be obtained much interesting work shall be offered to all of us.

As repeatedly suggested by Dr Keys there is however an important piece of work and analysis still to be done as an intermediate activity between the two trunks of the Seven Countries; that is the 15 year experience for mortality which should be available from all areas.

All of you may know that I have been responsible for processing and coding all the causes of death of all areas (except US Railroad) and that presently copies of tapes with the 10 year data are available also in Rome and ready for analysis on suggestion of Dr Keys.

After the 10 year anniversary all areas have collected some death cases but there is no assurance that they are all and complete, i.e. that for all men, at the 15th anniversary, the status in life or death and the cause of death have been individually checked. Clearly, in view of the 15th year analysis it is important to have this point checked and the Minn. Form 10 filled for each case of death.

This is a formal invitation to complete the collection of such data, to check very carefully all fatal events for the period included between the 10th and the 15 th anniversary and to send me what previously has not been sent (either to me or in Minneapolis, care of Mrs R.M. Hilk).

It would be useful to receive such material and a statement about the completeness of the live-dead scrutiny by mid December.

For your help you shall find enclosed here the list of men of the area(s) of your responsibility dead between the 10th and the 15th anniversary as available in Rome.

Thank for your help. Best personal wishes.

• Yours sincerely

Prof. Alessandro Menotti
Research Director for Chronic Diseases
Laboratory of Epidemiology and
Biostatistics
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Viale Regina Elena 299
00161 Rome Nomentano, Italy

Enclosure

SEVEN COUNTRIES STUDY N.2

Standardization and coding of causes of death

- The Rome Group will be ready to assume responsibilities in coding death causes and possibly also of non fatal events.
- It is proposed to employ revised versions of Minn. Forms 10 and 20. Form 10 should be accompanied by a compulsory check list of questions (already available) which are to be asked to the witnesses of the event.
A comparability with the data collected during the first 20 years should be assured.
- A methodological study on the comparison between the 8th and the 9th edition of the ICD is necessary at least for those cardiovascular conditions which have been mostly coded in the past.
- A review and possibly enlargement of the LPH codes for prevalence, incidence and mortality might be useful provided comparability the the past codes might be obtained.

A.Menotti
Rome Sept.79

SEVEN COUNTRIES N.2

Editorial Committee

THE E.C. should be made of 3 people. It should consider (and make ?) proposals for paper on the main issues of the study, assigning tasks and establishing the rotation of senior authors.

Moreover it should receive the requests for analysis by investigators particularly interested in special fields, evaluate them and put "the order" to the computer center.

The EC should review the texts prepared by the senior author of each paper involving data of the whole study and put it in the final version, including the linguistic problems.

The EC should be notified about papers concerning only local data and local analysis and give advice on request.

A reasonable timing in preparing and reviewing papers should be established.

A.Menotti
Rome 9/79

SEVEN COUNTRIES N.2

The Italian Region

The Italian Region shall include the rural areas of Crevalcore (north Italy) and Montegiorgio (central Italy) for the full program. The Italian Railroad cohort shall be followed only for mortality and presently it is not feasible to define new cohorts.

The responsible institution will be the Laboratory of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (Higher Institute of Health), Viale Regina Elena 299, 00161 Rome Nomentano.

The acceptance of an eventual Grant must be signed by the Director General of the Institute, after approval by three different internal committee.

Preliminarily the persons involved in the study are the following:

Principal Investigator: A. Menotti MD

Project Officer : S. Giampaoli MD

Data Editing: S. Conti

Field staff: A. Rumi*, G. Valera*, G. Di Carlo, X X*, X X*, X X*.

Computer Center: G. Farchi, R. Capocaccia, S. Mariotti, A. Verdecchia

Biochemistry: G. Morisi, M. Trezzini* (belonging to the Laboratory of Biomedical Technology of the same Institute)

Dietary survey: (contacts in due course with prof. Fidanza of Perugia and its staff - quite possible other solutions - presumably two people involved in the field work).

* People for whom a salary should be obtained from the Grant.

Preliminary budget: (for 1980 for obtaining: 20th anniversary examination of old cohorts - collection of death data - definition of new cohorts)

Salaries:	US \$	12,500
Consumption material:		3,000
Travel and maintenance:		12,500
External services, local cooperators, rentals, etc.		6,000
Biochemistry		6,000
Miscellanea		1,000
TOTAL		41,000

A partial direct contribution from the Institute can be expected. Exchange between items might be necessary.

A. Menotti
Rome 9/79