

December 6, 1970

MEMO TO: Dr. Keys

FROM: Henry Blackburn

The Rome meeting of the W.H.O. Working Group on Multifactor Clinical Trials was useful. Many of our younger colleagues were there, eager and prepared to get moving on such trials. The enclosed list of participants may interest you.

Because of some fore-knowledge of the London and Gothenberg protocols, and the personalities involved, it was possible for me to put them on the spot immediately and to show early that their plans were generally irreconcilable, and that we were not assembled to pretend this was true.

The outcome was in the end favorable, however, and along the lines Geoffrey Rose had hoped, since he had no serious intention to modify his plans. Nan Ganse of Ghent and Korwitzer of Brussels met for the first time and became friends. They will form a strong Belgian team to follow Rose's protocol, possibly along with Menotti. There is a real possibility that this can be a rather tight collaborative study among randomized industrial groups coordinated from London. It should significantly improve the chances of Rose's study, in its present form a considerable gamble, to obtain a definitive result.

Tibblin, Wilhelmson and Werko will attempt to work out a close collaboration between them and the Oslo and Helsinki groups involving individual randomization and two control groups, one followed but not examined at all the other identified but not contacted, among random samples by age in the community. There is somewhat less chance of this being a tight collaboration, because of the others' desires to examine their controls in detail or to work only with high risk groups. But they will try to work out a program in January, and there is some hope. Tibblin's group appears to be overcommitted and this would take off some of the strain of numbers.

The French group (Richard, Schwartz, Milliez and Lenegre) have an excellent protocol for a trial on mild hypertension with fair prospects for funding and staffing. I think they should be encouraged to pursue this rather than joining the multi-factor groups and I will visit them for three days of discussions in January.

The Dutch, Yugoslavian, Polish, Czech, Romanian, Israelien, Rex WHO group, and Russians will, and should, go their own ways. I doubt they could adhere to a collaborative protocol.

I am forwarding to Stamler a copy of all the conference documents, and will send a copy of the minutes as soon as they are available. Obviously, the Working Group did not prepare a formal protocol in Rome. These will be worked out soon by the collaborators with the London and Gothenberg groups separately.

I have misplaced Al Feinstein's address which he gave me in Atlantic City. I hope Jerry Stamler will provide him with the documents that he considers the Task Force should have, including "our own" rejected multi-factor application.

Dictated from Geneva

c. c. J. Morris, London
J. Stamler
H. Taylor

HB/rs