

July 12, 1971

Dr. Henry Blackburn  
Institut de medecine sociale et preventive  
Universite de Geneve  
Rue de Candolle 12  
1205 Geneve, Switzerland

Dear Henry:

The program for August 21, as I understand it, is not to be a part of the teaching seminar but will be a little symposium to be held far from Skövde under the auspices of the Swedish Heart Society. Only some of the speakers will be drawn from the seminar faculty and the audience will be entirely different.

I have seen no time table but I suppose the presentations should be planned as 15 to 20 minutes for each, with perhaps 10 minutes for questions and answers. In my "introduction" I would not plan to present anything about multivariate analysis except, perhaps, to mention its importance. If the Swedes wished it, I could talk for 15 minutes or so about multiple logistic equation and its applications, but that would properly be towards the end of the program.

In my introduction I could give a little history about the discovery of risk factors, the problems of methodology in prospective studies, and sketch briefly the organization of what Gösta calls the "seven countries study." I would say something about the problem of comparability between studies, including the question of interim ascertainment between periodic examinations and the nearly hopeless question of angina pectoris diagnosis. And I could well show a couple of slides identifying the areas and cohorts in our international study.

You, in turn, could start with five minutes' description of our system of arriving at final diagnoses, including a few words on the Minnesota code. You could then take up the risk factors as they emerged in the several cohorts, the consistent importance of cholesterol and blood pressure, the less consistent role of smoking and the consistent lack of a role of relative weight and fatness. You could also note the failure to find that occupational physical activity is important. Finally you could discuss the question of differences between populations in CHD incidence and the way the risk factors come out in that analysis.

You have, I think, copies of all the slides I made on the international study, including the railroad men. Using the above suggested outline you would be hard put to finish in 20 minutes.

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I am sending a copy of this letter to Gösta Tibblin so he can advise if he had other ideas.

About other things, including my ms. on the results with the multiple logistic equation, I shall write separately in a day or two.

All the best,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ancel Keys', with a large, sweeping initial 'A'.

Ancel Keys, Director

AK:mh

cc: Dr. Gösta Tibblin