

2 February 1973 Minnelea

Dr. Alessandro Menotti
Via Latina 49 A/14
00179 Roma

Dear Alessandro:

We arrived here two days ago to find the house and garden in good shape but a great deal of mail to be answered.

I am sorry that you may be unable to get away any time in the whole month of February. Are you now employed full time at the hospital? If so, some readjustment may be needed in your University of Minnesota Appointment.

If you are stuck in Rome, perhaps we could meet briefly there as we pass through on the way to Spain on Wednesday, Feb. 28th. We leave from Leonardo Da Vinci airport on Iberia no. 141 at 18:50 but must report at the desk by 17:50. We do not want to stop overnight in Rome but we can get someone to drive us to Battipaglia where we could get a rapido due at Rome at 14:45. You could meet us at the station and we should have enough time to talk on the way to the airport and for a time there before we have to check in.

In regard to what you talk about at Verona there are several fixed restrictions. 1) If the Proceedings are to be published it will not be permissible to present any new unpublished data for that would exclude later proper publication in a much more important place such as CIRCULATION, ACTA MEDICA SCAND. 2) Even if the proceedings are not to be published, no 10-year data can be reported except perhaps to say that "preliminary analysis of the partial 10-year data suggests that the relationships observed at 5 years continue to hold." A few statements such as the following might be admissable: "The East Finns apparently have had a much worse prognosis than the men in the other cohorts, including the West Finns." And: "The long-time findings indicate that the favored status of the Greeks and the Dalmatians, noted at five years, continued at ten years."

I have not yet given thought to precisely what I shall present at Verona but it will be nothing really new and startling because I too shall adhere to the rules noted in the preceding paragraph. NOTE: 1) The top-flight medical journals are very strict about not accepting papers that report previously published material. 2) With due respect to our friends in Verona the meeting there in September will not be a major medical meeting on the world scale. 3) Anyone who gives talks at 3 meetings in a year must be resigned to be repetitive. 4) The cooperative nature of our study of 21 cohorts in eight countries must be stressed;

a lot of good people are responsible for the organization of the cohorts and the collection of the data. 5) I have devoted by far the major part of my own time and energy to this program since 1957 and five years before then I was, in effect, preparing for it. I must insist on my priority though, as you have seen repeatedly, I lean over backwards to give credit with joint authorship. 6) I have agreed that Henry Blackburn take the lead in working up and publishing ECG material but he too must make every effort to ensure that all who are truly concerned get due credit. An acknowledgement of "We are grateful to - - -" is not enough; names on the title page are what count. 7) As I indicated earlier, I think it appropriate that you and Henry Blackburn take the lead in regard to purely clinical matters, including illnesses other than CHD. But here again attention must be given to the sensitivities of the more clinical members of our teams - - Aravanis, van Buchem, Djordjevic, Mohacek and Punsar.

In regard to your report of 10-year status of the Italian railroad men, by far the most important requirement is to account for every man as definitely dead or alive. I feel sure that the number of dead in your report is incomplete - - 24 dead in the first five years and 22 in the second does not make sense.

I am not really worried about the lack of detailed medical status on a good many of the men. We knew that would be the case at the outset and we shall never be able to know the true CHD incidence rate in the 2nd five years.

We shall be here at Minnelea all the time, except for an occasional day or two, until the 28th. From Feb. 28th to March 11, as you may have noticed on the itinerary sent you, then in Spain from March 11th through March 15th at meetings in New Orleans, Louisiana and then to Minneapolis. A major job for me is to plan in detail a 10-year report that will not be too lengthy (and expensive!) for publication. Tables of deaths by single years of age such as I sent to you and all concerned might be made available on request rather than publishing them in full. The same might hold for the tables of deaths and expected deaths recently mailed.

With good wishes to you and your family,

Sincerely,

Ancel Keys