

March 12, 1974

Dr. Ancel Keys
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Dear Ancel:

Thanks for your good note, and the news that your flu and travels are over. Things move briskly here. Our "performance" in the HDFF and LRC studies has been solid and will be good for the record. Every indication is that we will be near the top in performance for MRFIT. This makes us a "resource" that should provide longterm stability for the lab. though it is not ideal from some standpoints. Your several comments about unrestrained megalomania suggest your evaluations of this activity, but I do believe we needed this injection of money, people and activity, in hopes that some ideas might arise. It is not yet clear whether the ideas are forthcoming, but each staff member is doing a good job in his "assignment".

My latest application on a hygienic trial concerning ventricular premature beats, held by the November Council, was funded fully for 3 years and is our first dip into the Clinical Cardiology Branch. Our second just went in with a large joint SCOR project with Jay Cohn, the aggressive incoming chief of cardiology.

There are real opportunities in community demonstration projects, and we'll move along there during the year. We will all have to work hard to adjust for the jolt of decreasing MRFIT support in 1975. I would encourage you to be just a bit more expansive in support of analyses for the 7 Countries Study, or to give me the go-ahead to take parts of it and reapply for somewhat more adequate funding of future analyses than are now contemplated. I am also open to making a stronger pitch for adequate 15-year follow-up, and joining you in an application for this if you wish. Out of seven major new applications since I replaced you, we've had seven new awards, so I sort of have the feeling we should continue to strike while the iron is warm, etc. (HDFF, LRC, MRFIT, HDFF-ECG, MRFIT ECG, VPB Study, Dawson Study)

The San Diego Council on Epidemiology meeting was above average and Donald Reid came over to eulogize Oley for the 10th anniversary of the Council. Next year is in Tampa and the next after in New Orleans.

I appreciate your remarks on my rather "let-it-all-hang-out" article on CHD prevention, and admit that I had been disappointed by not getting them when

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needed last fall. Colleagues do owe each other at least the correction of serious factual errors and errors of judgement, as well as suggestions on language and tactics. We have done that rather well in the past. J. Stamler has also been too harried to comment, so I'm ~~on~~ on my own". We'll see! It is a bit too superficial and opinionated an effort but will have to stand. I will comment soon on your more thoroughgoing effort for Puddu.

The latest news is that we will have all the lab. staff and spouses at the Emporium of Jazz on 24 March and it may be \pm 125 people, for a big dinner and music, and other interventions. We'll try to plan next year's when you're here.

Regards,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

HB:jp

*enclosures: 2nd MRFIT Report
Party announcement.*