

June 17, 1975

Professor Ancel Keys  
"Minnelea"  
84060 Pioppi (SA)  
ITALY

Dear Ancel,

Though you and others have long known of the relatively high alpha LP (HDL) in women, there is a renaissance of interest in HDL cholesterol, and almost no good epidemiological data. The idea has to do, as you also know, with "clearance" of tissue cholesterol by HDL. The proponents hold that low HDL offers a "single" explanation for the association of IHD with maleness, high LDL, high VLDL, obesity, diabetes, and physical activity.

Is there any possibility of existing samples being around from the Seven Countries? If not, do you think we could get samples from Finland and Crete, and Japan?

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

HB:jp

pc: C. Aravanis  
A. Corcondilas  
M. Karvonen  
S. Punsar  
N. Kimura  
H. Toshima

P.S. to Dr. Keys only: I've just had dinner in London with two attractive admirers of yours, Bob LeFever and Jill Phillipson. Great fun!

*Thanks for your last letter.*