

June 20, 1977

Lewis Kuller, M.D.
c/o Department of Epidemiology
HSUA 1-117

Dear Lew,

Just a small remark about your comment of "piddling abstracts" from MRFIT to the Miami Beach meeting of AHA. I wholly agree that MRFIT should come forth with strong abstracts, conceived by the leadership and developed by an effective working force. The laissez-faire leadership in MRFIT has resulted in the proliferation of many abstracts. On the other hand, I would like to remark that the many "piddling abstracts" represent intellectual activity associated with MRFIT, particularly in the ancillary studies, and should be submitted to AHA as heavily as the market will bear. You would certainly not attempt to discourage the scholarly activities in any other institutions and I think these numerous abstracts are very important indications of such scholarly activity, (for example, Jay Cohn's cardiology Dept. submitted about 25 alone, probably as many as from MRFIT as a whole.) These from MRFIT should be graded on their academic merit obviously irrespective of any particular view of the central intellectual thrust of MRFIT, and they should be encouraged and promulgated by the AHA Council reviewers, not discouraged.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

HB:jp