

May 5, 1975

Lamberts
819 St. Ann
New Orleans, LA 70116

Dear Al and Risa:

Playing with Percy's band last Saturday was the most musical fun I've had in ages. Many thanks for the chance! It was great to be with you, though too short!

Love,

Landin

RECEIVED

MAY 5 1975

LAB OF PHYSIOLOGICAL
HYGIENE

April 30, 1975



Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear Henry:

I am abject!!! I have not had even the simple courtesy or decency to acknowledge your kind note of eons ago, nor even to commiserate during your recent hospitalization. For what it's worth, I did - and do still - worry about you and Israel, and am delighted that you are back among the rest of us semi-erect bipeds. I am not sure our current evolutionary anthropological achievement is all that salutary: my suspicion is that man really was intended as a four-footed hairy fish, which might make for somewhat sloppy tennis, but should afford an inherently greater survival risk than the cerebrating cranium we must support on a non-too-stable spine.

Many thanks for your support and concern about the ethics committee. We seem to have survived to some extent: the moguls have voted to recommend to the Board of Directors that the Committee be continued and that money be appropriated. Catch 22 is that there is no guarantee as to what staff support - and when - might be available once the AHA leaves me to go to the Sparta of the West. I am naively sanguine enough to believe that this will be happily resolved, albeit at the risk of losing some of the present members since there may be a rather longish latent period before they next meet. I shall urge Dusty and others to consider meeting even without peer-type staff (a secretary can always be co-opted) just to keep up momentum, and hope they will. The big guns, as you so astutely perceived, would have killed the committee, and would still like to see its function restricted to bread-and-butter work such as reviewing problematic applications for research grants and monitoring the Washington scene. Dick Remington was eloquent and forceful in pointing out that the Committee would refuse to operate purely as a resource/service toady, and whatever success we had in overcome rampant philistinism was in no small measure due to him. I have enjoyed that gang, am convinced they have much to offer and hope they will be allowed to do so. We did, by the way, distribute copies of the clinical trials manuscript, as well as the ones on the artificial heart and the acutely/seriously ill, but doubt that they were read, much less appreciated, by very many.

As to the hybrid concoction (your term) on clinical trials, it waits its turn in the typing pool and will be sent to the New England Journal. I

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share your misgivings, and appreciate the implied flattery in your suggestion that I apply my redactional skills to making homogeneous what may well look like the pastiche it is. However, impatience (understandable, given the impending move and relative lack of committee productivity/visibility) and pride of authorship (pride of multiple authorship, you will not be surprised to note, is exponentially increased over that of single authorship) mandate that I send the damn thing out immediately. If Ingelfinger is the judge of style I imagine him to be, I have little doubt - assuming he accepts the manuscript at all - that rewriting will be done later, if not now, and perhaps a mutually more grunting opus may result.

While I am crawling craven with contrition let me thank you - and Henry Taylor - for putting me in touch with Carleton Chapman. I have enjoyed my meetings with him - had a lovely lunch with him today, in fact - and though it is doubtful in the extreme that a full-time position will develop at the Commonwealth Fund, he indicated that he would like to keep in touch and perhaps use me in a part-time or ad-hoc role. Depending on where I end up, I should enjoy that very much, and do appreciate your writing so gracious (but not, I modestly aver, inaccurate) a note on my behalf. I'm off to the flesh markets of academe - the clinical meetings at Atlantic City - this weekend where, after I swill my mint juleps watching the Derby, I will peddle my CV on the boardwalk. I had thought I had a job as an associate dean at Albert Einstein, but that suddenly fell through for reasons I still don't understand, though money is tight and jobs are few, so back I go to square one, and whatever help you can afford in marketing an eclectic and slightly used me would be welcome.

Henry, it has been a delight and a privilege to have gotten to know you: it is always a delight to be confronted - and confounded - by an articulate intelligence in action, and hope fervently that our latest meeting will not have proved to be our last. I refuse to say goodbye, but will look forward to a reprise. Many, many thanks.

Ciao!

Zelce LAMBDIN