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JAN 16 1975

LAB OF PHYSIOLOGICAL  
HYGIENE

*Comes*

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Mégève Conference and correlation coefficients in the Oslo Study

Dear colleagues:

I very much enjoyed the Mégève conference and meeting with you. I promised to look further into the correlation question which you raised in a very friendly way after the session. Together with our statistician we have done so very thoroughly.

The whole confusion which I may have caused turned out to be very simple to explain, and, fortunately, there was no computer error. The correlation coefficients presented on my two last slides [cholesterol/years of smoking and cholesterol/syst.BP] are based on the empirical regression function where paired observations are means within groups of a total of about 16 000 men. A such procedure is of course of interest. However, as we all know, the usual way of doing such analyses is to compute correlation coefficients based on individual observations. This will of course be done and presented in the final report, which I will be glad to send you when finished.

I am sorry that I may not have made this quite clear in my brief presentation.

For the report of the proceedings in Mégève I have sent the following orientation:

"It should be noticed that the correlation coefficients shown in Figures 3 and 4 are based on paired observations within means of groups (of a total of about 16 000 men), and not on individual observations, which of course would give a lower degree of correlation, although still highly significant. In the final report of the study correlations based on individual observations will also be given."

Again, my best thanks for your kind assistance to clear up this misunderstanding.

Oslo Jan. 9, 1975

Sincerely yours

*Paul Leren*  
Paul Leren, M.D.

Chairman, Steering Committee of the Oslo Study