



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

file
Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Academic Staff
FROM: Henry Blackburn
RE: London Musings

- 1) Miller & Miller (Lancet 1975) propose a "Unified Field Theory" suggesting that the distribution and function of high density lipoprotein (HDL, alpha-lipoprotein) explains epidemiological data as well as or better than common ideas of the pathogenicity of LDL and VLDL. HDL is apparently active in removing lipid (cholesterol) from tissue sites including arteries, and getting it to the liver for catabolism. HDL concentration would explain sex differences in CHD (women have more HDL), differences between CHD cases and controls, the frequency of CHD in diabetics, obese, high LDL, high VLDL (which have a reciprocal relationship to HDL concentration), and the physically active (athletes have higher HDL).

It is a useful hypothesis requiring more investigation, as will probably be undertaken nationally in MRFIT. (Comment??)

- 2) My London visit reminded me of the desirability, and difficulties of examining the longitudinal age trends in serum lipids in the CVD men. It is such a unique body of data that it would be exciting to see someone get into it with or without funding of the CVD study. We also have α lipoprotein measured, I think. (Art, Joe Anderson & Dave: Comment??)

HB:jp