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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
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BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201



DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIOSTATISTICS

January 15, 1971

Dr. Henry Blackburn  
Université de Genève  
Institut de médecine sociale  
et préventive  
1205 Genève  
1e Rue de Candolle 12  
Switzerland

Dear Henry:

Thank you for your letter of January 2. You are right about communications being difficult, particularly when we are separated by an ocean. I am looking forward to seeing you in Genève, and hope that we will have an opportunity for discussion of problems of mutual interest.

I guess I should start by first apologizing for not having had a chance to react to any of the thoughts and views expressed in your letter of November 10. With the press of Data Monitoring and Technical Group meetings in the CDP, and with the preparation of the UGDP mortality results and the ensuing warfare that study has generated, I simply have not had a spare moment to sit down and think about your letter. I sincerely hope matters will ease up in the not too distant future to permit me to give some thought to future analyses of the CDP.

Although I have not had any time to think about analyses questions you have proposed, I have given considerable thought to a number of other problems we discussed while you were in Baltimore. As a matter of fact, we are now in the process of taking a number of internal steps designed to streamline our organization and operation. One step which we are taking is to centralize processing of requests for analyses by requiring those requests to flow through a single person. In order to help facilitate this I would appreciate it if you would address future requests for data analyses to me rather than to Tomi. This will permit us to more effectively intergrate analyses on ECGs into the overall framework for analyses of natural history of cardiovascular disease. In addition, this degree of centralization for such requests will permit us to more realistically assess our computing and manpower needs and construct priorities which will help guide us in determining the order and extent of analyses which we can carry out at any given time.

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In order to aid in this intergration, Tomi has reviewed most of the correspondence he has had with you, and summarized some of the major points you have discussed. I am including a copy of this for your review and comments.

I look forward to seeing you in Geneve in February. I will drop you a note when I know my location in Dusseldorf.

Sincerely,

*cm*

Curtis L. Meinert, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor

Enclosure  
CLM:mmd

CC: Dr. Christian Klimt  
Dr. Paul Canner  
Dr. Jeremiah Stamler  
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Dr. William Krol