



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

cont. copies - keys
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June 2, 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: Ancel Keys
FROM: Henry Blackburn
SUBJECT: Your May 13 Memorandum

Sorry your 13 May memo got displaced. I hope you will use the \$600 cancer money to get the work done you need immediately and I authorize you to work this out with Dean Surbey who is now the Laboratory's Senior Administrator.

You are still making veiled references to "things went wrong in connection with the provisions I thought would provide an ample reserve, etc." You left no instructions to me or Nedra on your expectations for use of those funds and she used them as she thought appropriate for the LPH.

You have had since a complete accounting in the past of those funds, which were not "mismanaged" as you once suggested. I have instructed Nedra and Gretchen to give you another accounting of them, and to return all monies which Nedra thought were for Laboratory use. I trust I'll never have to hear more of this matter again. You and only you are authorized to touch those funds and you may use them for data processing needs, as proposed to me in good accounting form by Dean Surbey.

There are no other funds from any source. Our ECG center is almost closed. I cannot use grant monies unaccountably. There are no School monies. You may process small grant applications as you like and I will serve as co-investigator. It will be your responsibility to provide the funds. We would gladly "collaborate", but previous efforts to have new faculty involved with data bases you regard as private property have been a disaster and we both have other things to do. Just keep me informed.

In sum, you may use our institution as a base for small grants. Your "reserve" is completely restored and at your sole disposition.

/jml

pc: H. Taylor, N. Foster, G. Newman, R. Prineas, D. Surbey

HEALTH SCIENCES

16/25/82
JML

13 May 1982

Memo to H.B. and H.L.T. from A.K.

THE SEVEN COUNTRIES FILE

1. The Seven Countries computer file now covers deaths through 15 years for all cohorts except Belgrade where deaths after 15 are incomplete and seem likely to remain so. Omitting Belgrade, 2,601 deaths are listed on the file. This number includes the deaths among the 651 men who at entry were judged to have one or another indication of cardiovascular disease, including major non-specific ECG abnormality with no other indication of disease.
2. The Seven Countries file is very useful as it stands now but it lacks two items essential for many future analyses. The date of death is not on the file; deaths are identified only by 5-year periods. The second lack is the code number in the International Classification of death; on the file the cause of death is only identified in terms of our short LPH code. The latter is most convenient and suitable for coronary deaths, deaths from lung cancer, from all other cancers combined, etc., but the number of deaths is now so large that more detailed analyses are warranted and would be informative.
3. Both date of death and the ICD code number are on the death report forms, nicely arranged by cohort and within cohort by ID number, in blue, ring binder record books above Rose Hilk's desk in the computer suite. I have sampled these and find them to be in good shape for easy transfer to the file.
4. Alessandro Menotti has copies of the death records in Rome and he has talked about getting the death dates and ICD codes on the file there but that has not been done. It would be most suitable to put these data on the file in the T Deck where it would be simple to provide the nine columns needed without any loss of other data. Rose Hilk says the job would be simple and would take about 50 hours of an operator's time. Dean Surbey says the cost should be figured at 10 or 12 dollars an hour.
5. I have something less than \$600 left in my budget for the cholesterol - cancer analysis summarized in the ms. you have and which is now being circulated to our Seven Countries colleagues. I had expected to use that balance for other costs in winding up the cholesterol - cancer business and Manning Feinleib informed me that there would be no problem in getting an extension on the use of the balance beyond the grant period which expires June 30.
6. When I officially retired I vowed to stay out of the rat race to get research grants but things went wrong in connection with the provisions I thought would provide an ample reserve for me to stay "in business." I now wonder about seeking some help. I want to go on with the examination of curvilinear relationships of mortality with serum cholesterol, body mass index, and blood pressure and I want to proceed with the life table approach and competing risks. I would welcome collaboration in these activities if that is wanted. But the point is that some money is needed for a couple of years. Not much but something.

