

COOPER-COLE



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School of Medicine/School of Community and Allied Health
Department of Public Health/Division of Epidemiology
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Henry Blackburn, M. D.
Professor and Director
Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
611 Beacon Street, S. E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

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Dear Dr. Blackburn:

Thank you for your letter of 27 May, as it provides an opportunity for me to offer you my views of the American Council on Science and Health (ACSH) and my role with it.

First, my role. I am a member of ACSH's Board of Scientific Advisors. I do not have and have not had any direct responsibility for any of their publications or positions. Thus, if my name appears as a cosignatory to one of their position papers, an error or misunderstanding has occurred. Further, insofar as I have served in an advisory capacity, I have restricted myself to matters of cancer epidemiology and etiology. Under no circumstance do I consider myself an authority on matters of diet and nutrition except insofar as those issues pertain to the causes of cancer. Specifically, I am not at all familiar with the April editorial with which you take issue.

Turning to the ACSH itself, I agreed to become a member of its Board of Advisors because of the esteem in which I hold both Dr. Stare and Dr. Whelan. Further, the ACSH promised to be, and has been, a source of factual and objective information on the epidemiology of cancer. For example, it has been an effective voice in debunking the so-called cancer epidemic and in keeping the role of environmental pollution as a cancer cause in perspective.

It is my perception that Dr. Whelan and ACSH are trying to remain objective and open to all points of view. I would opine that they would welcome your counsel. Quite frankly, I find ACSH a refreshing organization to have in existence considering the lack of objectivity which often characterizes the pronouncements of industry, labor, environmentalists and, especially, the regulatory agencies of the Federal Government.

Sincerely yours,

Philip Cole, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Professor

PC/vcg

cc: Dr. Stare
Dr. Whelan

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