

Registered Mail



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
TWIN CITIES

December 9, 1977

Hold

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

Dr. Vittorio Puddu  
Via Savora 80  
Rome, ITALY

Dear Friend:

I am sorry to mention the enclosed personal matter to you, but this issue has the potential of becoming unpleasant and your diplomacy might be very helpful at this moment. Professor Condorelli in Naples forwarded me a travel ticket which was inappropriate to my travel needs, and I had to return it to him and request reimbursement in cash for my travel to a Catanzaro meeting in September. There they offered to me lire in cash for my expenses. However, at the time I didn't feel that I should assume what I felt was essentially their problem and I did not wish to become involved in the financial transactions. I also didn't feel then that I should impose their problem on my friends living in Italy, and so I refused the cash. I now learn that the problems are very difficult for them, and I have hoped and assumed that a transfer of dollar funds to me could be arranged, perhaps through the pharmaceutical firms which sponsored the conference. After all, an international lecturer to an international conference would be paid in a negotiable currency, and this should be fully understood by all parties.

If it proves quite impossible for them to meet my expenses in any way other than lire, Jerry Stamler has agreed to buy the 2 million lire from me as he needs them and a check in lire could be made out to him. But this would only be acceptable if there is absolutely no other alternative.

Equally of concern is the fact that Dr. William Kannel of the Framingham project also returned his travel ticket to the Naples group as it was also inappropriately made out for his travel itinerary. He sent it by mail, but Dr. Critelli apparently did not receive the tickets and very nearly accused Dr. Kannel of dishonesty. The Naples group have also not yet met Dr. Kannel's expenses. It is possible that the tickets were not returned due to problems with the Italian Postal Service. But there is obviously no question of Dr. Kannel having returned the tickets.

I therefore need your kind advice and, if necessary and appropriate, your intervention so that this can be handled in a straightforward and gentlemanly and professional fashion. I guess I'm beginning to have some concern that we may be dealing with a man not acting in good will. The contacts between Dr. Critelli and Dr. Kannel were apparently quite unpleasant.

Obviously, the initial intentions of our Italian colleagues were perfectly good because they sent both of us our air tickets. But because of our complex travel schedules (those complex Americans!), they could not be used. To avoid an international cardiological brou ha ha, the matter might very well profit from your tactful attentions if you feel so inclined. I imagine it would be best to explore this with Professor Condorelli, who impresses me as being reliable. It may even be possible that he does not know that I have not been paid and may not know details of the whole story.

I'm sorry that our frantic schedule with Nelly and I flying from Lamezia to Singapore at a bound forced us to miss a visit to Rome beyond the airport.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn

*Hpc*  
*J. Stander*  
*W. Kannel*

CALLED 12/7/77 5:15 p.m.  
NIGHT LETTER  
BILL TO DR. BLACKBURN'S HOME  
COPY TO BE MAILED " "

PROFESSOR M. CONDORELLI

INSITUTO DI PATHOLOGICA MEDICA DEL UNIVERSITA NUOVO POLICLINICO  
NAPLES (ITALY)

PROFESSOR JEREMIAH STAMLER HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT FOR USE IN ITALY TWO MILLION  
LIRE FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF MY TRAVEL EXPENSES TO THE CATANZARO MEETING.

A CHECK MAY THEREFORE BE MADE OUT AND SENT DIRECTLY TO HIM AT HIS

ADDRESS: NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL 303 EAST CHICAGO AVENUE  
CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60611.

MANY THANKS.

HENRY BLACKBURN

*Should have  
been Minnie's Italy  
address.  
See 12/8 cable  
u.*

CALLED 12/8/77 11:36 a.m.  
NIGHT LETTER  
BILL TO DR. BLACKBURN'S HOME  
COPY TO BE MAILED " "

PROFESSOR M. CONDORELLI

INSITUTO DI PATHOLOGICA MEDICA DEL UNIVERSITA NUOVO POLICLINICO  
NAPLES (ITALY)

CORRECTION PROFESSOR JEREMIAH STAMLER'S ADDRESS PER LAST CABLE:

"MINNELEA 84060 PIOPII PROVINCE OF SALERNO ITALY.

HENRY BLACKBURN

msh