

November 4, 1974

Henry T. Ricketts, M.D.
American Medical Association
535 North Dearborn Street
Chicago, Ill. 60610

Dear Dr. Ricketts,

Having had the pleasure of meeting you many years ago, and finding you a thorough going scholar, I was more than surprised to hear from you what I believe to be a misconception about our paper on a coronary risk screening exercise, recently submitted to JAMA. It is in no sense a classical "laboratory experiment", but an introduction to screening and risk detection, it's concepts, which provides an unexcelled concentration of ideas on chronic disease prevention and statistics - usually very dull business and often rejected by students. I can certainly accept with no trouble that the JAMA might not be interested in this paper, generally or specifically, but can express my unhappiness, I hope, at the apparently superficial nature of the review process and the opinionated estimate about this effort based on a generic idea of inefficient ways of training.

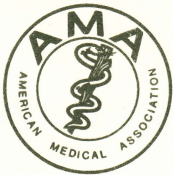
The opinion really appeared to have been given without a reading of the manuscript or an understanding of the effort. We are submitting the paper elsewhere, but as a former editor, (with Howard Burchell on Circulation), I believe that editors, in their infinite power, should be called to task on occasion when their contribution to the review process and their comprehension appears to have been less than infinite.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

HB/kn

pc H. Moser



AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

535 NORTH DEARBORN STREET • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610 • PHONE (312) 751-6000 • TWX 910-221-0300

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ROBERT H. MOSER, MD
Chief Editor

HENRY T. RICKETTS, MD
Contributing Editor
751-6326

November 1, 1974

Henry Blackburn, MD
Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
University of Minnesota
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear Doctor Blackburn:

The manuscript by you and Dr. Trapp recently submitted to The Journal of the American Medical Association under the title "Coronary risk screening and evaluation. A learning exercise for medical students" has been reviewed by members of the editorial staff. Although I am sure that you and the students have enjoyed this program, there seems to be an increasing belief that teaching by laboratory experiments in science has been overdone and is an expensive way to learn, both in time and profit. For this reason, and because the paper is pretty long, we must inform you that we shall be unable to publish it.

We thank you for the opportunity of reviewing your manuscript.

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Ricketts

Henry T. Ricketts, MD

HTR/hs

encls

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H3

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