

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL
(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)
LONDON, W2 1PG

2nd December, 1975

Dr. H. Blackburn
Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
Radium Gate 27
St. Mary's Hospital
Winchester
Hampshire SO9 4LP

Denhartog
J-76

Dear Henry,

pull letter.
enclose uranium
press story,
on circ. in
down.

Thanks for your letter of November 24th and your nice remarks. The news release from the Mayo Clinic which I had thought would be enclosed was not in fact there. I should be interested in it, if your secretary still has a copy to spare.

I have the profoundest respect for Ancel's statistical and general intellectual acuity, and very little respect for my own. Nevertheless I have never understood why he has alleged that within-population associations between dietary fat and cholesterol levels will inherently be undetectable because the within-subject variability is as large as between-subject variability. It has seemed to me that random error in the characterisation of individuals leads to systematic under-estimation of the magnitude of associations; but the effect on the statistical significance of the association can be offset by enlarging the numbers. This is in fact the basis of most epidemiological studies, in which we use measurements of poor repeatability which nevertheless manage to detect real effects because they are applied to large study groups.

Best regards,

Yours sincerely,

