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February 12, 1971

file.

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Institute de Medicine Social
et Preventive
Rue de Condolle 12
1205 Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Blackburn:

On behalf of Dr. Joseph Doyle, chairman of the Council on Epidemiology and Dr. Elliot Rapaport, chairman of the Research Committee of the American Heart Association, I am pleased and privileged to invite you to membership on the Research Committee, as the representative of the Council on Epidemiology.

If you accept this appointment you would succeed Dr. Warren Winkelstein in this capacity, and your five-year term of service will become effective in April 1971 and end in April 1976.

Ordinarily Dr. Rapaport would have preferred to discuss the responsibilities and functions of Committee membership with you personally. I shall attempt to outline these in this letter and would hope that if you have any questions you will ask them of me or Dr. Rapaport. Two distinguished past members of this Committee, Ancel Keys and Henry Taylor, would also be happy to speak to you about this appointment.

In brief, The American Heart Association entrusts primary responsibility for allocating its research funds to the Research Committee. The Committee has developed a method of technical review and evaluation of applications for research grants and fellowships that is familiar to you. In addition, it has the important task of formulating research policy and developing and designing new forms of research support as need arises.

[Handwritten signature]

Dedicated to the conquest of heart and blood vessel diseases through research, education and community service.

February 12, 1971

The Committee consists of a representative of each of the eleven AHA Scientific Councils and five members-at-large. The names of current members of the Committee are attached. The terms of Drs. Warren Winkelstein, Andrew G. Morrow and Robert Vernier end this spring. Representatives of the new Council on Thrombosis and the Council on the Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease will be appointed for the first time this year.

The Committee holds two formal meetings a year. The fall meeting, at which time applications for Established Investigators and Visiting Scientists are reviewed, is held for four days in late October. The dates for the next meeting are October 24-27, 1971.

The winter meeting of the Committee, at which time grant applications are reviewed and policy matters discussed, is held for four to five days during the first or second week of February. The meeting next year is scheduled for February 5-9, 1972.

As you know, eight Research Study Committees made up of members of the AHA Scientific Councils meet on separate days in January in New York City in order to make scientific merit assessment of grant applications assigned to them. These recommendations and priority rankings are presented to the Research Committee at its February meeting for final action. As the representative of the Council on Epidemiology, you would serve as the chairman of the Preventive Medicine Study Committee. Your responsibility for this Study Committee would not take effect until January 1972. In addition, as the Council's representative on the Research Committee, you would serve during your tenure on the Executive Committee of the Council and attend its two scheduled one-day meetings each year.

I am enclosing a brochure entitled, "Dollars for Cardiovascular Research" which describes the basic structure, composition and function of the Research Committee, as well as its Research Study Committees.

One additional point -- during their five-year tenure, Committee members are not expected to participate in membership on award committees of other national granting agencies in the U.S., including NIH study sections, training program committees, and advisory councils. Certain NIH committees with special functions are not deemed to be in conflict, nor are appointments on local heart association research reviewing groups.

Dr. Doyle, Dr. Rapaport and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future and learning that you will be able to accept this assignment.

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

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February 12, 1971

I might add that although your appointment would officially begin in April 1971, your responsibilities would not begin until your return to this country this fall.

With kind regards.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Schneckloth".

Roland E. Schneckloth, M.D.
Director of Research

RES:cc

cc: Joseph Doyle, M.D.
Elliot Rapaport, M.D.
Warren Winkelstein, Jr., M.D.

Enc.