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the Medical Center / SCHOOL OF MEDICINE / DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

DIVISION OF CARDIOLOGY

9 February 1972

Dr. Henry Blackburn
University of Minnesota
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear Henry:

It was good to hear your voice again after so long a lapse in communication with you. I am delighted that you had a good sabbatical in Switzerland but very sorry that your health is not presently up to par. You have my best wishes for a speedy recovery to your usual "super normal" condition.

With respect to the reevaluation of exercise test risk, a letter to the editor of JAMA from Phillip I. Hershberg in Boston published 18 Oct. '71 raises the interesting question not only of whether deaths may reasonably be blamed on the exercise test but even more pertinent, the comparison of exercise test risk in a diseased population with the expected risk if no intervention had been made at all. I am not referring to any hypothetical improvement in management which may have resulted from the exercise test or any lack of ideal management which may have occurred in its absence, but simply the uncorrected number of deaths per day in a group of 100,000 ischemic heart disease patients in comparison with the number of exercise test deaths in the same group. To my unsophisticated view the difference seems negligible.

I am sending a copy of the lipid project exercise ECG proposal as you requested. Your comments would be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Tom

L. Thomas Sheffield, M. D.

LTS:jb
Encls.