



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

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

yellow copy

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Jeremiah Stanler, M.D.
Northwestern University Medical School
Room 9-105
303 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Jerry:

Congratulations on your Harry Dingman professorship. I hadn't heard about it. I had the pleasure of knowing Harry and have his book, if you haven't seen it.

I'm delighted in your strong positions in MRFIT but find and am bothered by an increasingly and unnecessarily emotionally charged language in your public attacks and defenses of these positions. I am repeatedly sorry at having missed Portland (one of many important things sacrificed for the messy junket to Moscow). I'm not especially happy with what you wrought there. Most important, no one since has handled it properly, in that such a major design change should have been aired before the Policy Board. It was made operational, and you succeeded in having it remain so last week, without the study even having the courtesy of informing that body. Clearly the loose ends you gather up so well in CDP are not gathered in MRFIT.

There will be a "constitutional crisis" and confrontation unless you and the executive committee get together and see if there can be a consensus. And your point of view will lose in the crisis unless it is well supported. I cannot for the life of me, considering we are all guessing, see why you are so strong for 20 vs. 15% cutpoints. Your strategy, to get more than 12,000 subjects to preserve power has never been "accepted" by Bethesda or by the Steering Committee.

We will probably have to screen at the 10% level unless we go with a strong recommendation for 15. Twenty I don't think you can carry through. There was little to gain by your delaying tactics at the last meeting and much to lose.

Regards,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

HB:mk

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