

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

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SANTA BARBARA · SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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See keep info.

PERSONAL * CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Henry:

I must confess that I'm a little curious to know whether or not you had the same reaction that I did following our "snowstorm" telephone call yesterday. The idea of your heading-up a new Division of Disease Control in the Department of Community Medicine at UCSD has been so close to the front of my consciousness that it woke me up last night. Therefore, I decided the best thing to do was to do what I promised--namely to put down for you on paper what I was expressing in a much less coherent form over the phone. I am supplementing this letter with not only the enclosed attachments, but also by means of a few more weighty (in ounces, not in content!) which you should receive in a few days by regular mail. *documents*

I don't believe that I'm bragging too much when I say that UCSD School of Medicine has almost achieved the same feat that Johns Hopkins accomplished sixty years ago. That is, we have managed a kind of "instant excellence" so that eight years after my appointment as Dean and less than four years after admission of our first class, the fifty students (including five minority students for whom the usual admission standards were waived) of our class of 1973 have topped the best eighty-one medical schools in the country on Part I of the National Board Examinations. As you can imagine, this achievement, of which we are proud, has created hazards. My chief concern is that we will now develop a bad case of the "Hertz Syndrome" whereby we put "blindness" on our students, apply a little "whip" and exhort them "never to look behind them because Avis might be gaining." *yet, I believe that we can avoid this trap.*

In addition, it creates problems for me as Department Chairman whereby I must now recruit academicians even better than the fourteen or so full-time people whom I have checked off on the attached annotated list. If you will turn to the xerox of the Departmental Reorganization that I will suggest at a meeting on Friday, January 28, you may be able to get some idea of your role. *of our department* In essence, I badly need a chief of the reorganized Division of Disease Control (previously called Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics which Mike Shimkin has been holding together on a part-time basis while also coordinating our Regional Medical Program). More important, I need you at least to plan,

Dr. Henry W. Blackburn

help

implement and serve as Principal Investigator of the UCSD component of the multiple-faceted RFP-72-16 summarized on the attached copy of the letter of intent to Zuke. As you can read, if John Chapman at UCLA and another group at UCSF also join "the club," our pitch will be irresistible and require so much of Zuke's money that he wouldn't have enough to pay you anyway! If you wanted to serve as coordinator of our "California Club" rather than just doing our "San Diego thing" that would be fine with me, and these are the kinds of things that we need to discuss face-to-face.

I could prattle on like this for hours because I love the place and know it all too well. In essence, what I am saying is that you are too good for both Minnesota and Bethesda. You have already been too long at the former and you would slowly wither at the NHLI without your academic attachment. We have the role for you here at UCSD which is made to order for you and which you could handle with one hand tied behind your back. We can also add any additional challenges that you feel like taking on. I believe (although it would take a bit of doing) that we could offer you a visiting professorship beginning in July 1972 which would at least give you a chance to enjoy sunny California and to see if you like the place. I must confess that the Department of Community Medicine has been a little too much like a "floating crap game" and that after five years we do need to finally get organized. Therefore, it is also a timely moment for new members to have a significant impact on our "brave new world" of medical education. [^]*of the department*

PLEASE! do not make a definite commitment either to the NHLI or to Minnesota until both you and Nellie have paid us a visit and allow us to apply a little "on-site" seduction. It will at least give you a chance to warm up from that awful snowstorm and with a little luck it will improve your prostatic drainage as well. Sorry to unsettle your psyche but that's the way the ball bounces. When you are born smart and work your ass off what the hell do you expect?

Hopefully,

Joe
Joseph Stokes III, M.D.
Professor and Chairman

Enclosures

*— a little ragged but
I'm going to air mail -
special it off anyway as is
since time is of the
essence*

*Cheers,
Joe*

P.S. Best to Arnel + Henry