

August 27, 1975

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Dear Tomi,

Things move along here at a very heavy pace and we're gearing up for a busy Fall schedule including four trips to Europe. I just had CIRCULATION'S rejection of the Serial ECG paper.

We have several ideas for future directions here but they are still quite uncertain. Dave Jacobs has just found out that we can read the CDP data tape so we may be proceeding to look some more at the CDP analyses. Why don't you drop me a line if you have any ideas that you would like us to pursue in them collaboratively? We are now trying to find funds to expand our data processing capabilities so that Dave can have more help in doing the numerous analyses on existing data that we would like to do.

Our main energies are still in MRFIT and that is proving to be a worthwhile experience though it is getting to be more and more involved in behavioral science. I suppose I shouldn't worry. I have never been expert in any of the fields in which I have "plowed" and should probably have no concern about being inexperienced in this one. At any rate, it is fun.

I just spent the weekend in Stanford, part of which was brainstorming with my friends at Farquhar's place about where to go next in terms of community trials. If you are not aware of the results of the Stanford Three Communities study, you should be, and I'll send you publications as they appear. They have successfully intervened on the health habits and the risk factor levels of three communities in California and are now designing studies to relate such changes to mortality changes.

Our new staff continues to be productive and I think we are growing somewhat closer together. We will probably go in the direction of mortality-morbidity surveillance studies, monitoring of risk characteristics of full communities, comparison of intervention methods on health behavior and possibly intervention in the very old and the very young. We have a new educational psychologist full time and he may turn out to make a significant contribution.

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I still think occasionally of coming to Japan. Too bad that Dr. Keys did not get to attend the International Conference on Nutrition this year in Tokyo. But this may be because he is not really keeping up with some of his contacts in this field in a constructive way. Kimura has suggested that I come next year and it sounds like a good idea. I am sort of dreaming of going to New Orleans in February for the Epidemiology Council meeting and staying there, spending a couple of months sharpening up my musical skills and making some tapes with friends that I have wanted to do for several years, and also perhaps writing up at that time my magnum opus on the Prognostic Value of the Electrocardiogram, primarily from data in the Seven Countries Study. I wish I had your close collaboration to work on this. On the other hand, Dave Jacobs and Al Womelsdorf are doing excellent jobs with analyses and I think when we get into it we'll have a good time together doing it. To continue the dream a little further, I have thought of taking the summer of '76 at Stanford where I have close friends and colleagues, spending that time to map out future directions of the Lab. and write grant applications in areas that would complement the very exciting Stanford studies. That would be a time when Nelly would be free of teaching responsibilities and could join me. I have more or less given up the idea of ever again taking a Sabbatical leave and the idea of a 3- to 6-months' leave appeals to me. I have had a fine summer with my kids home individually and they are all coming home this weekend to surprise Nelly for her birthday. They are all doing relatively well but no balls of fire.

The back is much better, though it appears that I will be disabled for some time with it and I miss vigorous physical activity. I would love to hear from you when you get some time, though I know it is limited and that secretaries don't exist. The secretarial competence in America is one of the best things about our professional culture (and it is the worst thing about European culture and I don't know about the Japanese).

Best regards to your family and to other Japanese friends including the Toyamas! Let me know if there is anything I can do for you here.

Cordially yours,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

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