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Howson

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Christopher Howson
Project Director
National Academy of Science
Diety & Health Study
National Research Council
2101 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20418

Dear Chris:

You should have received on Monday an updated version of Chapter 7. I've no idea what Dewitt Goodman will do to this, but there are still more suggestions and modifications to come from Rick Shekelle for the latter part of the chapter. It is close to being done. Enclosed is a fairly solid draft of the Chapter 4 section on stroke. I am now working on peripheral vascular disease data in this area.

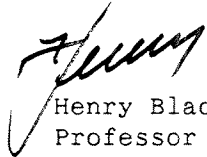
I will have a substantial draft of the peripheral vascular part of Chapter 4 to bring along, along with summaries that will be appropriate to Chapter 19 for that subject. Enclosed also is a first draft addendum on stroke for Chapter 19. It has not been fleshed out with references and has not been reviewed by Rick Shekelle. I suggest that it is not for circulation, but I will consider it in my review of the status of Chapter 19 next week.

I'm looking forward to getting these basic contributions off in the current period and then look forward to going over the conclusions and interpretations. I am a little pained, but not yet distressed, by the continued evidence (in the minutes of the last meeting and in our discussions) that some of the leadership of the committee does not understand the need and role of dietary recommendations for the public. I think it would be wise to delay debate on these issues until a more solid draft of conclusions, interpretations and implications, and recommendations is completed. I am optimistic that, in the long term, we will get reasonable recommendations that can be used also by the practicing profession for individual therapy and can be used by public health agencies for purposes of health education and public policy.

Though I had no particular brief for the model of population and individual recommendations that I provided at the end of the last meeting, I was no little distressed to see your (?) summary of the minutes suggesting a consensus that we limit ourselves to recommendations for individuals. If this is indeed a consensus, then we have a long way to go together before we can arrive at recommendations useful to the public and credible from a leading scientific agency of this country. So I'll cool it in the hopes that battle lines are not being formed early. We must call on our leadership, both in the staff committee and

among the three directors, to arrive at consensus on this issue. I am endeavoring to put together still another attempt to indicate why public health recommendations are required, and how they can best be provided as guidelines. I will go over this with Rick Shekelle and hope to submit it before the January meeting.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

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P.S. You may share this with Sushma if you like, and I will share it with Dewitt Goodman.