

August 24, 1995

National Heart, Lung, and
Blood Institute
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

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Dear Henry:

Thank you for your letters about the celebration of Fred Epstein's life. I think the arrangements you have made are the ones he would have wanted, and that the Epi Council Meeting is the best place for his numerous friends to gather and share memories of his scientific accomplishments and generous provision of guidance and support to colleagues. His willingness to share ideas and friendship with old established and new colleagues was remarkable. Having Andy and Tony there to reflect on Fred's strong family ties will round out an important aspect of his character. I hope Doris will come, but traveling such a long way might be difficult for her.

Please let me know how I can help with the arrangements. Unfortunately, financial support from the Institute is not likely, given the current uncertainty about the budget, but things may change between now and next March. The best bet would be support for a scientific presentation if that is needed.

On a slightly different subject--I love your book. Ian was right in saying I swiped it first. I read as far as the Greek Islands on a protracted trip to Steven's Point, Wisconsin which included an unanticipated overnight stay in Chicago because of thunder storms between Washington and Chicago. I was foolish enough to encourage Ian to start reading your book when I got back, which meant I couldn't get my hands on it again until he was finished. I have just finished the remaining chapters on my flight from Amsterdam back to Washington. These remaining chapters were well worth waiting for. Your marvelous and vividly told stories brought back my own memories of epidemiology as it should be practiced. Although my own studies were in less exotic places than yours--Tecumseh predominantly, but also Marion County, West Virginia; Berlin, New Hampshire, and Stavelly, England where working conditions were sometimes pretty rugged. It makes me sad to think that our younger colleagues don't have these experiences but turn data collection over to technicians. The data they collect is of very high quality, but talking to and examining study participants gives a better understanding of the strengths and limitations of the data, than that which comes from playing with the numbers, no matter how sophisticated the statistical analyses are. The best of

I know you are collecting and recording impressions of your travels and meetings. I remember you dictating as we watched the celebration of midsummer day in Helsinki. I look forward to your next book and writings whatever form they may take. With best wishes and many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Millicent".

Millicent Higgins, M.D.
Deputy Director
Division of Epidemiology
and Clinical Applications.