

AL Taylor

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Dear Henry:

We have recently had a demonstration of interest in the Laboratory by the Administration of the University. U.S.P.H.S. granted 22 million for the construction of building, but the funds for Public Health (i.e. L.P.H. and Epidemiology space) were cancelled by administration in Washington. However, Lee Stauffer reported that the President's office had decided to make up the 2 million, which was deleted from the building grant, a major priority in their request from the legislature. So it seems that the accomplishments of the Laboratory have not gone unnoticed.

The protocol for the Center grant probably made your hair stand on end. The negotiations which went on during the month of December were, to say the least, remarkable for their lack of cooperative planning. There was a great deal of pressure to have this application submitted because of the virtual certainty that the program project would not be renewed in its present form. In the future, program projects have to be truly coordinated projects built around groups who are in fact working toward a common goal. It is also a fact that Bob Good's program in bioimmunology has the largest research potential on the campus. So it is planned that his group will submit a program project. The Center grant was conceived as a support mechanism for the people in atherosclerosis. There is some discussion of setting up a program project in cardiovascular function; but, at the moment, I don't think there is enough strength in this area to justify it.

Faced with this situation, I stayed with the proposal inspite of the fact that in the end Ivan literally dictated the skeleton outline of the protocol. There are obviously not enough patients with MI in the Twin Cities to justify the self-contained Trial that is proposed so it boils down to a feasibility study.

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The insistence of the surgeons on a large number of cases for surgery forced the switch from primary to secondary prevention. I am forced to conclude that Ivan wants a study with the largest possible decrease in serum cholesterol and that he doesn't think he can really get it without a substantial number of men who have been operated on.

After the switch from primary to secondary prevention, I tried to insist that you should be coordinator but no one would listen. In any event, it is clear that your participation is going to be crucial.

One of the desires of NHLI is to put as much approved grant money as possible into Center grants with the purpose of freeing up competitive grant funds for new grants.

This requirement has been met since roughly one-half of the funds are from previously approved grants. On the other hand, there are 46 applications from Medical Schools for a Center in Atherosclerosis Research. It is conceivable that 3 or 4 of them might be really well thought out proposals.

A protocol meeting has been called for the Diet Heart project, and Ivan is the only representative from the original diet heart feasibility project.

Candidates for the vice-presidency of the Health Sciences are currently appearing on the campus. Carl Chapman is one of them. We have had two of them here and both are insisting that public health is the wave of the future.

Sincerely yours,

Henry L. Taylor

P.S. MacMillan who is handling the Arteriosclerosis Center grants won't say at this stage when or even if we are going to have a site visit. But he will inform us as soon as possible!