

January 25, 1968

Dr. Gaylord W. Anderson, Director
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota
1325 Mayo Memorial
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear Gaylord:

This is to urge that Dr. Henry Blackburn be promoted to full professor. As you know, since his last promotion six years ago, Dr. Blackburn has increased greatly in prestige, productivity and in the responsibility he bears. He is now widely recognized as a leading figure in the cardiovascular field, particularly in epidemiology and electrocardiography.

Dr. Blackburn is a key person in this Division of the School and is increasingly involved in cooperative work with the Department of Medicine as well. He is active and effective in professional education, and in this connection serves on the Committee on Professional Education of the American Heart Association. Last fall he organized the very successful symposium on electrocardiography and related subjects which he conceived as a testimonial celebration for Dr. Ernst Simonson. He has organized a symposium on preventive cardiology to be held this May under sponsorship of the Minnesota Heart Association and the Mayo Clinic. From the announcement enclosed you will see his success in attracting a remarkable group of participants.

Recognition of Dr. Blackburn's competence and stature is testified by his election to the rather exclusive American Epidemiological Society, to fellowship in the American College of Cardiology, and as the next Chairman of the Council on Epidemiology of the American Heart Association. It is also noteworthy that he was selected, together with Dr. Geoffrey Rose of London, by W. H. O. to write the handbook, "Cardiovascular Survey Methods," which will shortly appear in book form. Finally, Dr. Blackburn has been appointed to become the Associate Editor of CIRCULATION, the world's leading journal in the field, which responsibility he will assume at the end of the current academic year.

The enclosed list of Dr. Blackburn's publications is evidence of his scientific productivity. I should mention also his innovation of a system in which non-professional people are trained to classify electrocardiograms. In this connection he has organized several short courses and has made this Division the center for E. C. G. classification for national cooperative research

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programs sponsored by U.S.P.H.S.: the National Cooperative Diabetes Study, and the National Drug Study on Secondary Prevention of Coronary Heart Disease. In connection with the latter he has just been awarded a grant from U.S.P.H.S. in the amount of some \$35,000 a year for seven years.

I propose, if you agree, that next year Dr. Blackburn take over full responsibility for course PH 192. We believe that the Department of Medicine will promote this course.

Sincerely,

Ancel Keys, Director

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