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1111 Longworth

December 16, 1971

Dr. Henry Blackburn
Professor of Public Health
Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
Stadium Gate 27
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear Dr. Blackburn:

Thanks very much for your recent letter in support of
Dr. Cooper's program for arteriosclerosis.

HEW's budget office provided me with figures on the
current spending levels for the National Heart and Lung
Institute and for the arteriosclerosis research presently
underway.

These figures indicate that approximately \$65.3 million
of the \$80.7 million appropriated for fiscal year 1972
is being spent.

The Administration is currently reviewing its spending
plan and will decide in the near future whether to release
more of the appropriated funds. HEW indicates that
arteriosclerosis research would be high on the list of
priorities for any money made available. I have written
to Secretary Richardson to ask him to release these
funds.

I was also informed that funding for Dr. Cooper's program
will be given serious consideration in the development
of the fiscal year '73 budget.

I'm hopeful that the funds for this important work will
be forthcoming.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Fraser