

Dwyer

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Dr. A. S. Dontas
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Dear Andy,

Thank you for your good letter. We were happy to see you in Minneapolis but regret that we had no more time together. I am glad to learn of your plans for research and writing. Good going!

We are leaving here September 18 to go to Minnelea where we expect to be from September 20 until the ninth of December. Perhaps you could visit us at Minnelea before our departure.

I am glad you like the proposed arrangement to avoid conflicts among our colleagues in the Seven Countries Study. I tried to make it clear to all concerned some time ago that I intend to confine my work and writing to the question of longevity with first emphasis on body fatness in middle age.

I have completed two mss. on longevity and body fatness in middle age. The first is on the 40-year experience of the men in the Twin Cities Prospective Study. That ms has been sent to the new journal started by Mario Mancini, "Nutrition, Metabolism and Cardiac Disease." I trust that ms will be accepted for publication soon. The second is on the same subject using the 30-year experience of the U.S. railroad men, a part of the Seven Countries Study. For authors I listed Ancel Keys, Henry Taylor, Henry Blackburn, Josef Brozek. Both sets of analysis find no significant relationship between middle-age body fatness and longevity, meaning survival to age 80. Review of the literature shows no conflict with the conclusion. I am waiting for Henry Blackburn's OK before sending that ms to a journal.

I am sending you a copy of the ms on the U.S. railroad men. I had intended to do a similar piece on the 25-year experience of the men of Crete and Corfu and have already done much of the statistical analysis. The Cox proportional hazards solution shows general agreement with what I found for the U.S. railroad men.

For Crete with data on 644 of the total of 685 men, in the Cox solution the coefficient divided by its

standard error shows -0.77 for body mass index, -1.56 for triceps skinfold, +1.27 for subscapular skinfold. None of those items is statistically significant. Systolic BP and cigarette use are significant with the coefficient/standard errors of 2.13 and 4.54, respectively. For Corfu the Cox solution is very similar, the ratios of the coefficients divided by their standard errors are 0.74 for body mass index, -1.48 for triceps skinfold, 0.006 for subscapular skinfold. Systolic BP and cigarette use hve corresponding values of 3.53 and 2.82, respectively; highly significant.

Why don't we join forces on that project for writing a paper? Shortly I'll send you more results of the statistical analyses.

We both keep reasonably well for ages 81 and 87 and we trust you and Jenny do even better. Margaret joins in sending great good wishes to both of you.

As ever,



Ancel Keys