

410 Groveland Ave. No. 802  
Minneapolis MN 55403  
U.S.A.  
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Dr. Henry W. Blackburn, Director  
Division of Epidemiology  
University of Minnesota School of Public Health  
Stadium Gate 27,  
Minneapolis MN 55455

*AEC  
plan*

Dear Henry,

I expect we'll talk soon but I write now to remind myself of the things to talk about; lately I find I am apt to forget too many things.

1) Rose Hilk has received the death information from the Railroad Retirement Board, complete through 1987 I believe. There are 290 death certificates and notices about another 500+ deaths with only our serial number, the death date and where they died. That will be enough for my immediate purpose of examining longevity versus entry characteristics but death certificates for all are needed for Alessandro Menotti to code and enter ascribed causes of death, which he will put on the master file for us here and for the file in Rome. Some costs will be involved: a) Certificates from the various states, perhaps averaging \$6 each, totalling perhaps \$4,000. b) Clerical costs of entering the death data on the file, perhaps \$2,000. I have no funds from grants so what should we do? A little grant of \$10,000 would cover these items and some other costs I face -- mail and reprint costs, photocopy work, publication charges now demanded by Am J Epid, power for the equipment in Italy, etc. Already I have 60 requests for my paper given at Ilomantsi in June and just out in Annals of Clinical Research.

*✓ 12/27/88  
PC*

*D.S.  
ideas?  
Suggest  
ICR +  
it could do  
a BRSG for  
him next  
round.  
1/8*

I received yesterday a box of reprints of my "Special Article" on the diet and blood cholesterol in the big survey in Israel. I enclose a couple of copies.


2) I think I have finished the longevity-fatness ms which you saw in near final form months ago. I am inserting a short paragraph: "In the Kaunas-Rotterdam Intervention Study Dr. Paul G. H. Mulder of the Institute for Biostatistics, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, advises that for the Rotterdam men no relationship was found between the body mass index and total mortality. Dr. Mulder analyzed the data from 2953 men among whom 348 died in the follow-up. Dr. Mulder adds that the sample consists of men aged 45-59 at entry and is not evidence of what may be the case in younger populations." I am also adding a brief notice of the new book by J. S. Garrow: "Obesity and Related Diseases" published in London by Churchill Livingstone, 1988, which I paid to have sent to me in Italy (\$80). Garrow is a Professor whose main activity is running a reducing clinic where they do

such things as wiring the jaws shut. He thinks obesity is a mortal threat but seems to know nothing about people with body mass index lower than 30. As noted before, I would welcome you as joint author if you wish to add your name as more authentication.

3) I propose to write in the same way about longevity and body fatness in middle age as follows: The cohorts in Italy with Menotti as co-author, the cohorts in Finland with Karvonen, Pekkanen and Nissinen as co-authors, the Greek cohorts with Aravanis and Dontas as co-authors, the cohorts Dalmatia and Slavonia with Buzina and Mohacek as co-authors, The Serbian cohorts with Nedeljkovic and perhaps Kromhout as co-authors (Kromhout got money and personally helped in the recent follow-up work in Serbia). Zutphen with Kromhout and perhaps Boschietter as co-authors, Tanushimaru and Ushibuka with Toshima as co-author must wait for the 25-year death data I have requested from Toshima. For all these I would restrict the subjects to men aged 50-59 at entry so we could have an advanced age as the longevity target. Suggestions?

4) Rose Hilk is helping me to write control programs for the analyses of the mortality in the Seven Countries Study. She also will add to the file on the men in Hungary the death data recently sent by George Lamm.

5) I am having innumerable medical tests but seem to be doing well. Margaret will order our tickets to Italy to leave here in mid January. In the meantime I work hard at the computer and word processor and she helps by checking my typing and data entries on the computer.

  
Ancel Keys