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COOPER - GRUNDY

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Veterans Administration Hospital
3350 La Jolla Village Drive
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Dear Scott:

I'm pleased to see the final edition of the AHA Diet-Heart Rationale Statement and think you've done a fine job.

You are surely aware that the references are far from being in complete shape. They require an extremely detailed rechecking of these as I note at least a dozen errors on a quick scan including references 43, 55, 87, 119, the absence of the latest Oslo Lancet Study by Hjermand (Dec. 12, 1981) etc.

Needless to say, I was very happy to see your statement about the population levels of HDL in the presence of low LDL, and the good correlation between total cholesterol and LDL levels.

Page 7, paragraph 2, line 5: the sentence is grammatically incorrect and it makes me wonder whether it left out something or whether the plural verb is inaccurate (elevated HDL "are").

Your section on the ideal plasma cholesterol, I think, is a very reasonable statement.

I think Jerry and I both indicated that the term "prevalence" is incorrect epidemiologically, though it's o.k. by Webster's. It would be preferable in every instance that I can find if you were to replace prevalence by incidence, that is, 3 places in the first paragraph on page 2 and in the first paragraph on page 11, or better, avoid the issue by using "frequency."

I think your description of the Seven Countries, Ni-Hon-San, Adventist Western Electric Studies, and so forth are very appropriate. I was pleased with your second paragraph on page 12 about the low order correlations within this country.

Although I have resisted throughout suggesting changes at this late stage, I would still change the word "prevalence" even in the galley. I would also change the word "justification" in the subtitle on page 15 "justification of diet statements" to "rationale or documentation for" rather than the debating form "justification." Generally your sense of criticism of the AHA position is excellent.