



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
TWIN CITIES

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School of Public Health  
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May 13, 1980

John Farquhar, M.D.  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
Department of Medicine  
Room S-005  
Stanford, CA. 94305

Dear Jack:

I hope you enjoyed your tour "down under." Russ has just returned from a very brief visit to Stanford. We get the distinct impression that we really cannot infringe much on your time in this terribly busy period. He also has something of a vague impression that Stanford is a little put-out with us somehow. Are we being non-responsive in some way or another--was it media production? We are not far enough along to know where we are; still fighting DRG on our budget, award not yet received.

Let me say that you and I must not allow false perceptions to develop between us in these important undertakings. I have had no communication with anyone on your staff since the pleasant night I spent at your house in February. So any perceptions of lack of response are imaginary. It is very important that you and I stay in touch and that all communication with Minnesota not be done between Steve, Jan and Russ Luepker--as important as their communications will be over the years.

You can imagine our inexperienced status compared to yours. You've been in the business eight or nine years. You can imagine our status in that we haven't received our award and probably won't until the end of June. You can imagine our situation in which we have a media production chief who is enthusiastic but just beginning to get into this matter. Fortunately Jerry Kline will soon have a meeting with Nate and Jan, I understand, in Mexico. You can imagine our preoccupation with just beginning to make contact with communities. You can imagine our concern in that our budget has been cut back a third by the study section and may be cut back further as a result of recisions. So, rest assured that any lack of responsiveness or collaboration on our part is a misperception and that we are simply preoccupied, as are you.

There are so many things we need now to learn from you, but we must carefully avoid descending on you in your terribly busy period. I have never heard further about the Colorado undertaking and assume it has been scratched. Some of our group may see you in June at Breslow's show.

John Farquhar, M.D.

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For your information, I've completely resigned from all MRFIT undertakings, both as Principal Investigator of my unit and on the Executive Committee. I think it will limp to its finish as one of the less fortunate research plans and organizations in history. As you can imagine, however, I'm not spending energy "Looking Backward."

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.  
Professor and Director

HB/rc