



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

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COPYES - FLEMING

June 24, 1981

Phyllis Fleming, Ph.D.
Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
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Stadium Gate 27

Dear Phyllis:

Many thanks for your thoroughgoing review of Dr. McKinlay's proposal. Remember it's confidential. I did not share all your reservations about the "endless task" of validation. You are probably not familiar with the long and checkered history of RISK0 which was forced on the community by the Michigan Heart Association. Sonja has made heroic efforts to shore it up, improve it, and validate it. It would be worthwhile to have it revalidated in this population because of the publicity and controversy about it throughout the Heart Association and nationally. The other profile is very representative, as far as I can see, of the 120 other self-help, health risk appraisal systems being used in county health departments, risk appraisal centers and so on and so on.

I think she proposes to test just what we need to have tested, whether these have any relationship to physiologically established risk, how feasible and acceptable they are to administer, and whether they affect knowledge and behavior (without holding out much hope that they do). Whatever the information from such a systematic evaluation, it would put these in context so that they could only be used as "come ons," or in definitive roles in the change process.

Other than your very appropriate concerns about response, it seems to me that the design and analyses are impeccable, that the very fact that they are used in self-help, self-administered settings provides the assumption that they are intervention tools that need to be tested. Aren't we making the same assumptions for our first stage educational screening?

For your information, in the future, your critique and evaluation was generally good. The description was insufficient. You should put yourself in the place of a reviewer who has not read the proposal but who needs to understand the methods as well as the principal aims of the study through reading a short abstract.

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Many thanks for your participation. I rotate off the Study Section now and have been replaced by guess who?, Len Schuman! However, I am sure I will have other occasions to review things and would like to count on you to look at them for mutual benefit.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

HB:jml

Enclosure : MCKINLAY S.S. Review ✓
6/24/81 JMC