



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

CONVEX - PACKARD

April 27, 1981

Dr. Barbara Packard, Director
Division of Heart and Vascular Diseases
National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute
National Institutes of Health
Federal Building, Room 416
Bethesda, MD. 20205

Dear Dr. Packard:

The attached list of activities in this Laboratory puts us very close to a Research and Demonstration Center. Our collaboration with the Lipid Research Center, and with other activities in the Medical School and the Clinical Research Center, bolster that idea. However, I greatly need your guidance in how or whether we should proceed in competition for designation as a national Research and Demonstration Center.

Because we have combined the disciplines of medicine, epidemiology, physiology, nutrition, and health behavior in this one unit the last decade, we have been productive in research and successful in competing for grants. We are involved in a period of significant research activity.

But past experience with the Medical School in the 1975 center application is not likely to be repeated. It is also not at all certain that my group would be designated by the Medical School principals to put together a case for Health Sciences.

If another principal were designated in the Medical School, it is not at all certain that the program in "basic research" or "treatment of heart and blood vessel diseases" would be balanced with research in prevention and health promotion, the purpose of the center.

Finally, it is essential that the Institute avoid the horror of 1975 in which many hundreds of thousands of dollars, and thousands of hours of effort by many institutions was brought to bear to compete for only one new center. The RFP was considered a hoax by the scientific community. They will not readily enter into this arena again without guarantees that they are competing for something that exists.

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At any rate, we are enthusiastic about the idea and that these activities are an ongoing direction of the NHLBI in response to the public law, and serious in regard to research in preventive applications.

I'll call you soon for an opinion.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

HB:jml

Enclosure

bpc: Dean Stauffer
Faculty Meeting File

✓
4/27/81
jml