



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

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Corred. Schucker

August 31, 1981

Ms. Beth Schucker
Health Education and Welfare
Public Health Service
National Institutes of Health
Federal Building, Room 4A14
7550 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda MD 20205

Dear Beth:

Your Minnesota friends were overwhelmed with your thoughtful gesture and flowers. It does indeed come almost at the moment of our kickoff. There are quite a few more deadlines to meet in the next month before the kickoff actually takes place in Mankato. We are making it with the usual stresses of organizational requirements among people who have relatively little experience of being organized on a massive scale.

Speaking of milestones, we had our Jubilee paddlewheel MRFIT party last week, purportedly the "last bash," with the usual orchestra, dancing, good food and carousing, and no long speeches. There was a marvellous skit in which the satiric theme was an experimental program, the direct opposite of MRFIT, i.e., encouraging people to eat fat, and salt, and gain weight, and so on and so on. The participants loved it.

With respect to your "wishing you were here," the feeling is mutual. We continue to have some problem with people in non-academic status not knowing how to "use the system" in a professional manner for their own advantage and satisfactions, a gift which you obviously had. It is always fun when it works.

There are other big events in the offing, including the possibility of our becoming a more "balanced" academic department through a merger with Epidemiology. We shall see.

Regards and thanks,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

HB:mbt