

DEITCH



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
TWIN CITIES

Division of Epidemiology  
School of Public Health  
Stadium Gate 27  
611 Beacon Street S.E.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455  
(612) 624-5400

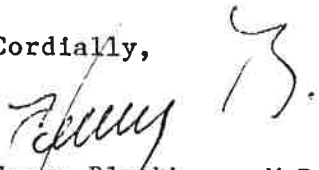
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Mr. Mark Deitch  
Executive Editor  
Rx - Being Well  
800 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mark:

Thanks for coming up after the presentation in Dallas. I am sorry that we didn't have more time to go into detail. You were quite right about the single study of incidence in Women of Rochester, MN. This is the sole study, out of many studies, which suggests the possibility that the rate may be going up in women. All other incidence and mortality studies show a continued decline, which is even greater in women than in men. We have not explained this difference in the Rochester study. It is certainly of great interest and you're perfectly right to call attention to it. But, I am sure you understand my contention that one cannot build a whole theory of change in the role of women and risk of women based on one study, when all other evidence indicates that women are not only participating in the general decline in coronary disease, but are leading in this decline. There are mysteries about this, in that women have not decreased cigarette smoking as much as have men. The overall sex difference, which is not sufficiently explained by differences in mean risk characteristics, and other inconsistencies remain an unsolved issue and I am sure that there are important clues within. I am also sure that you would be making a mistake to hang your hat and a lot of your other interesting speculations on this single report. I enclose a recent summary of these events.

Cordially,

  
Henry Blackburn, M.D.  
Professor and Director

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Enclosure