

Corresp. Burchell



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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CONFIDENTIAL

Howard Burchell
260 Woodlawn
St. Paul, MN 55105

Dear Howard:

Your points about Ancel's analyses were well taken. The point is, as Ancel would be the first to remark (and bluntly), "So what, if obesity is not associated with earlier or greater mortality?" I like your idea of looking at various aspects of disease and disability in the CVD group, but we are only dealing with 300 men and any specific disease or disability category would be very limited in power. Ancel has gone right to the heart of the issue in asking a simple-minded question, whether obesity in healthy, middle-aged men is related to their survival. Irrespective of all the things we know about, or think we know about, obesity causing or being associated with greater risk of a greater number of phenomena.

Thanks for the Zutphen paper. You will find on line 4 of the Subject and Methods section, in very small print, the indication that the Zutphen Study is the Dutch contribution to our Seven Countries Study. Kromhout is a very effective and ambitious young man who has just been named head of epidemiology at Leiden and is quite anxious to establish the separate identity of the Zutphen Study and his own career. We are happy that he has done so, though we are not happy with all the studies he has done, or the conclusions that he and others have derived from them, for example, the fish consumption study of a few years ago.

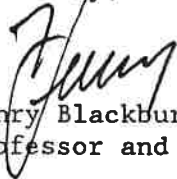
With regard to young people working with Ancel as I indicated to you, it has been one of the sadder experiences of my tenure. But I long ago gave up trying to involve Ancel in worthwhile collaboration with younger colleagues. He is phenomenally, at 84, still out there proving that he's the best, and the "only". So we don't push the issue or try to modify his behavior. He is making a contribution in his own particular way.

I am again amazed and delighted at your continued interest and faithful attendance at the Epi seminars. If I were running them they would be somewhat different, but I am pleased that they are eclectic in nature, if inconsistent in quality. I welcome your continued presence, questions and input.

If you feel inclined to make commentary of or about epidemiological and preventive pursuits, or medical advances in the context of our interests, or for that matter on any other subject of your experience, we invite you to pick a date in the Fall for giving a Wednesday seminar. It would be a pleasure to run over several issues

and view points with you; "A distinguished clinical investigator's viewpoint of the contributions and deficiencies of epidemiological and preventive strategies", would be particularly valuable. Think it over and let me know. Thanks.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

P.S.: Had I sent you the enclosed? It is the first draft of one of my parts of the the National Academy of Science's next Diet and Health statement, to be published this Fall.

/nmf

Enclosure (*Chapter 28*)