



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

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TO: Henry Blackburn
FROM: Russell Luepker *R/Luepker*
DATE: April 15, 1986 *plc*
RE: Job Responsibilities During My Leave

Things discussed with you include:

1. The MHHP continuation should be given to you later this week with my edits and first dictation of a summary. Several people had not responded before I left. My secretary has a list of these. Obviously I have not been able to summarize those reports which were missing.

The major hole is that Dean Surbey has not been able to work on his sections. He and I have talked, and he finds the budget and data center rather straightforward so sees little difficulty.

Both Kathy and my secretary will be helpful in pulling this together as will Dean.

2. You will be directing my efforts on the MHHP Executive Board. I would encourage you to use Maury as a substitute when you are not available. My secretary is aware of her responsibilities for putting together the agenda. You will need to do the minutes yourself or appoint someone to do them.
3. Work is needed for the Scientific Advisory Board meeting. Kathy Ring has been instructed to look for a hotel and has the dates. However, you will have to write our advisors to get it on their calendars. There seems to be little time left and so this should proceed with all speed.
4. You will obviously be in contact with Elaine Stone, and I would hope with more frequency to fill my absence. The most important issue is the Gramm-Rudman cut and our need to know the magnitude as soon as possible.
5. The budget for MHHP seems to be in good shape, and with Dean's approval can probably subsidize the education over-runs.
6. You should have received a memo about the MHHP quality control. This continues to be a weak area. David and I have discussed it, and I again have defined for him the areas I regard as important. We now at present are heading towards a committee approach to provide the overall supervision.

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7. Neil Bracht will be taking my community organization responsibilities and visiting Fargo-Moorhead on a more regular basis.
8. David Murray will be filling in for me in the Fargo-Moorhead planning team, my duties in the NCI grant, and any work that comes up with the Soviets.
9. Professional Education -- There is a separate memo on this. Neil has been put on the committee, and Maury has agreed to meet weekly with Phil to keep on top of that situation.
10. Cheryl Perry has taken responsibility for the training grant directorship. We are recruiting a new fellow this summer to replace Glorian, and have settled on an individual. Our first choice is Neal Kohatsu, a physician with an M.P.H. who is now in Arizona, but was in our classes, as an outstanding student, several years ago.
11. The issues regarding my students have been discussed thoroughly with Dr. Prineas and responsibilities assigned. Any support that you can give to Kathy Doliszny in my absence will be much appreciated.
12. Again I would remind you about the seminar and the need to make plans for this fall.
13. John LaBree will be taking my clinical duties at the hospital, and Phil Kofron covering for the HHCs.

Those are the main items I know at present. I will be back in May if there are other issues. I am available by telephone or mail if needed. My secretary has those numbers.

/cmh



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Luepker

done
→ July 1, 1986

EXPRESS MAIL

Russell Luepker, M.D.
c/o: Dr. Edvard Varnauskas
Professor of Cardiology
Medical Pol. I
Sahlgrenska Hospital
Gotheborg, Sweden 41345

Dear Russ:

Since I have had no memos from you in the last couple of weeks, it suggests to me that you are now truly "on sabbatical." That's good.

Things go well here, though it is extremely busy and increasingly complex. In addition to usual duties and the merger complexity we have had the visit in the last week of John Potter, Sander Greenland (epidemiological methodologist from UCLA), Noel Weiss, chairman of Epidemiology at Washington, all the summer session faculty, and the President of Kuopio University. In addition to that we had a rather traumatic oral pre-lim with Al Pheley, which he passed but with many reservations.

I am still very hopeful about John Potter. His visit was great and our cancer program would be in excellent hands. He would have the ability to mobilize our strengths plus Mandel, Schuman, Bender, Robison, Wattenberg and others.

The Center application now will be finished up this week and I think it will be fairly decent.

This note is to inform you (confidentially please) that I am thinking seriously of cancelling my participation in the Berzelius Symposium in Gothenburg, October 6-7. You cannot imagine the burdens that have crashed in upon me in respect to our growth, the new merger, the active issues I have ongoing with the dean and the new Center application, and the already heavy responsibilities of directing the Graduate Faculty and the Division Training Committee. It is simply very difficult for me to think of being gone for a week in October at the time when all these activities will be at a peak, after having guided the division through a retreat, MHHP through a retreat and through the Scientific Advisory Board meeting and the start of the new academic year. In addition to that, they have me assigned to a topic in which I am not an authority and would have to review the literature that others have much closer to their interests, that is, "The effect of smoking cessation on cardiovascular risk."

HEALTH SCIENCES

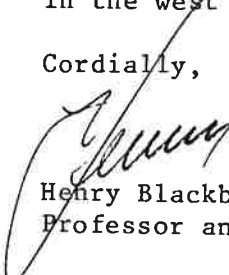
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I am therefore thinking strongly of cancelling this participation and asking Lars Williamson to combine mine with his already assigned similar topic. He is thoroughly familiar with this literature and my topic pretty much overlaps his on the same session. It is conceivable of course that you might be interested in returning to Sweden for one week to wrap up on a few things three weeks after having come back here. Please don't say anything to Lars or anyone else, yet, but write me special delivery whether you are sufficiently interested to consider taking my place on that conference Monday, October 6th and on that topic. After you have replied, I will contact Lars Williamson and suggest that I be replaced. It will be a terrible professional gaff, but I think I was assigned this just out of the good graces of Lars, who last year thought that I had a good personal reason for wanting to come back to Gothenburg, which is not so.

I may talk to you about this by phone. I hope things are going well with you and your many activities there. I look forward to your reply on my comments about your writing opportunity.

I was not terribly surprised to hear about your application to UCLA, but in the past you have usually confided in me on these main issues and on this one you did not. Your choices are still very clearly in front of you and you and I have agreed on the best way for you to go in the past. I am no longer so sure of that way. It may be that you are not either. It may be that now is the time for you to become a dean. I am regretting in many ways that you did not make the stab at it here. You may not understand my evaluation of the potential here, but I do not see you anymore as the sure candidate to head this division, despite administrative skills and your clear ability to bring things together here. I believe the competition when I step aside will include a wide external search and the committee will not include more than one of our faculty. Selection will be based on credibility in epidemiology, nationally, and academic leadership in more traditional epidemiological areas than those in which you have established your reputation and leadership nationally. I hope to talk to you in the next days before I take off for three weeks in the west on July 10th.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

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