

LEAVERTON



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Paul E. Leaverton, Ph.D.
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Dear Paul:

It was very delightful to visit you and your new school and department. It was a very positive experience. Thanks. One thing I learned from it, having not consulted on those particular issues before, was that I need questions well defined beforehand so that I can respond systematically. However, I should have anticipated some of the obvious questions such as, "What would you do in our situation?" At any rate, you have a bunch of bright young people and you're finding your way in setting up criteria and policy. Since I have not had such a responsibility, all that I can do is recount our experience, which I am happy to do informally.

In an attempt to address specific issues of your department, I have put down the enclosed thoughts, in no particular order. I am self-conscious about responding in platitudes, but I am sure you will forgive me these ruminations.

With regard to more specific possibilities of our future collaboration, in which I have a substantial self interest, I have outlined a series of lectures. I may not have kept well enough in mind the issue of three-hour sessions once a week, but that's a minor modification. I would be grateful for your thinking in terms of when this could be. In the long term, I would like to come down regularly in March and April for a few weeks. Who wouldn't?

Do we need to think of waiting until next year for occasional lectures? It would help me in my future presentation of them, and in our mutual criticism of them, if I could present an occasional lecture even later this year. The one that would probably be of the greatest interest to your current classes would be on Population Strategies of Prevention with details of the Minnesota Heart Health Program. I could take up from where I left off in the first lecture. I would be happy to do that in a visit the end of May if that would be useful and appropriate. I will be coming anyway; or I'll be happy to do it in the fall. A series of three and/or six presentations covering the whole area -- anthropology, epidemiology and sociology of mass diseases and their prevention.

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In respect to possible specific collaborations on research, I think I'm probably within a couple of months of having an outline filled in on strategies for a Minnesota Center of Cancer Prevention. This is much more restricted and specialized than your new Cancer Center would be capable of approaching, due to our limitations here. However, we might be able to bring some strengths and contacts with NCI to the "one-third" of your cancer program that you indicate is being devoted to prevention and promotion.

I am happy to share with you at this stage the rough outline of strategies for our center. Yours can, of course, be a much broader approach because of your excellent surveillance facility in place, your strength in oncology, and Heather's experience in cancer epidemiology. In this regard, it might be useful for me to meet Drs. Lyman and Shapiro on a visit in late May or early fall after you and Heather and I have had another discussion about what areas of mutual interest there may be. I don't know whether you would like any members of my staff involved in such consultations.

Thanks again for a delightful visit.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

HB:st

Enclosures (see attached)

also, slides
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originals
c. Leaverton
P. Burkhardt