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Corresp - Burchell

May 3, 1988

Dr. Howard Burchell
260 Woodlawn Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105

Dear Howard:

Thank you for your kind note of April 27. It was very good of you to make the comments you made about Greg and Mike's presentations. I was in the back of the room for Dr. Burke's presentation but missed Dr. Sprafka's.

My anticipated annual jaunt to the University of South Florida as "visiting distinguished professor" was reduced from six weeks to one this year due to a hectic schedule. Ron Prineas's departure has added a tremendous administrative load on my shoulders. He has done a wonderful job with our teaching program as well as his own researches.

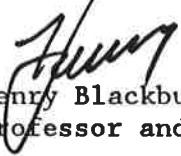
I will be happy to fill the gap in the Saturday morning grand rounds, next Fall, as you like. But I guess I would prefer that Greg Burke do it and that we expose the Department of Medicine to some of the younger people and ideas going on around here. I could attend for discussion.

Thanks for the note about Meyer Friedman's diatribe. I look forward to reading it. He does carry around a good deal of hostility. In recent years, behavioral scientists have joined the corps of us skeptics, as study after study has raised questions with the strength of the initial hypothesis. I hope Rick Shekelle or someone else will reply to his attack on The MRFIT Study.

Let me thank you again for your interest and faithfulness in coming to Epidemiology Seminars. It is inspiring that a clinician and investigator of your stature maintains that interest. It is a disappointment that research in prevention activities is not more prevalent in the medical school. Family Medicine is now closing the Nokomis Clinic which is a self-supporting prevention oriented clinic. Of course, Tom Kottke had his problems but it is too bad that the Mayo Clinic rather than our own school recognizes his strong qualities. He will do well at Mayo if he can reduce a bit his dogmatic and "adversarial approach" to the world.

The most exciting thing going on in our Division at this moment is the development of the Cancer Prevention Research Unit under John Potter. It is doing very, very well. I'm now trying to get something going in Infectious Disease Epi.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

P.S. The enclosed drafts of some of my contributions to the current NAS/NRC Report on Diet and Health may amuse you.

/yma

Enclosure