



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

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corresp - Korn TW
9/29

September 28, 1988

✓ David Korn, Vice President and Dean
School of Medicine
Suite 121, Stanford University Medical Center
Stanford, CA 94305-5206

Dear Dr. Korn:

Basically there are two North American academic centers at the forefront of sound and innovative research on the primary prevention of cardiovascular diseases in whole populations, Stanford and Minnesota. The pioneer program, conceptually and actually, is in your department, in your institution. I've heard from colleagues around the country that Stanford's leadership in this field is immediately and seriously threatened by efforts to recruit John Farquhar elsewhere.

I have never written this kind of letter before, and though we are not personally acquainted, I am sure I don't need to belabor the contribution made by Jack and by Stanford. The development of an institution with innovativeness, international respect, practical accomplishment, successful careers, and overall remarkable research contributions (not to speak of millions of dollars of overhead) is apparently threatened. Colleagues in this research, which we think is central to future research and training in medicine and to the prevention of chronic disease, believe the field, as well as Stanford itself, would be seriously set back by failure, or a perception of failure, to support adequately this remarkable and foresighted effort.

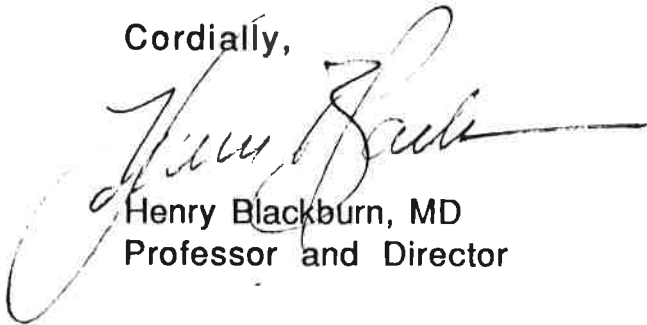
Some of us have also long been puzzled by differences between our institutions in basic support of a successful academic enterprise, absence

of an operating budget, of recovery of indirect costs for developmental purposes, of availability of temporary or tenure-track professional appointments. The original, pioneering, and perhaps most innovative center of any internationally has always had to fight the hardest battle, it seemed to us.

In my view, disease prevention issues are eminently researchable, eminently fundable and eminently important as contributions to medicine and the public health. We wouldn't know what to do without looking to Stanford for collegueship, collaboration and, for that matter, leadership in this forward-going approach to "sick populations" as well as "sick individuals".

I am sure that you will understand and pardon this unsolicited comment, based on rumors. If the rumors are true, I'm quite certain the world will not be better off if Stanford loses its institutional commitment to the prevention effort.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry Blackburn", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and extends across the width of the text area below it.

Henry Blackburn, MD
Professor and Director

/tmw

bpc: J. Farquhar and R. Luepker