



Department of Community Health

Medical School
Observatory 7925
South Africa
Telephone: 47-1250

Head of Department · Professor J.M.L. Klopper, OBE

25 April 1988.

Prof Henry Blackburn M.D.
Director
Division of Epidemiology
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
611 Beacon Street S.E.
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

Reply on tape

Dear Henry

I have received your letter of March 29 and the subsequent telegram and have tried, but failed, to telephone you. As I believe you will be away for a week, I am writing this to keep you in the picture.

With regard to work opportunities, the one with Basil Rifkind seems to be most firm to date. He is in the process of getting the paperwork done and has received the go-ahead to recruit from Claude Lenfant. Remuneration would be in the region of \$65 000 - 70 000, which would seem to me (perhaps wrongly) to be rather modest in view of the high COL in Washington. One could survive, no doubt! The work itself would apparently involve planning, coordinating and managing certain studies, the most important being the Lovastatin trial. I gather that he has asked you to write a letter of reference.

The advantages of joining the NIH would be security, immediate access to funded project and getting to know the system quickly. Disadvantages are the bureaucracy and having to fall in with existing programs rather than initiating your own. Do I read the situation correctly? I would value your advice.

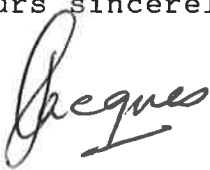
I have not as yet accepted this offer and have indicated to Basil Rifkind my desire to fully explore the Minneapolis option before coming to a decision. Therefore I do appreciate the indication that you are continuing to work along those lines. The areas that seem to offer most promise, initially, appear to be the exploration of diet-lipoprotein interactions, with John Belcher providing the laboratory backup. I am impressed with his techniques. Other areas are the effect of ageing on lipids, and individual variability. I would also like to get involved in a primordial prevention study, in time. The diet-blood pressure area of Richard Grimm is also of interest. For Lesley, Cheryl Perry appears to have a tailor-made position. I will wait for your news.

Lew Kuller has not made any further contact, maybe he is waiting for me. I shall write to him, as he did seem to be very interested.

I am awaiting clarification of a possible overcharging on my airline ticket before coming back to you with my expenses statement.

Thank you once again for all your magnificent hospitality. My very best wishes (and those of Lesley) to yourself and to Stacy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dr. Rossouw". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

DR J E ROSSOUW



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

720
8/4/88

August 5, 1988

✓ Jacques Rossouw
University of Cape Town
Department of Community Health
Medical School
Observatory 7925
South Africa

Dear Jacques:

First, I want to apologize profoundly for my lack of communication. I have been distressed at not being able to make good on our tentatives here. I have continued to make efforts. It is clear now that we are not going to be able to provide a position here that would give sufficient security for you to come for a decent interval and get your own researches underway.

My most hopeful pursuit was 50% salary from Don Hunninghake in the Preventive Cardiology Clinic here. That has now definitely fallen through, at least for the immediately foreseeable future.

I hope you will continue to make vigorous attempts to come as Visiting Scientist to Bethesda. This would set you up at the "hub of the universe" for medical research and teach you the ropes, putting you in good stead for a longterm career in this country. This is the only country I know of where there are and will be adequate funds for research over the years.

I am even more disturbed that I have not developed the particular area of nutritional researches that we abandoned so many years ago and should have been continuing here. This void has been filled by Scott Grundy who is making a career on our earlier findings, doing so in an inappropriate and

unhappy fashion in my view with peculiar experimental designs, with large proportions of calories from particular fatty acids in formula diets in substitution for saturates rather than for carbohydrates.

Though I've given up hope that we can create a position in the immediate future I've not given up those longterm interests. Our division still earns sufficient indirect cost recovery funds from researches for us to support every few years new major undertakings (as we have recently done with John Potter and Cancer Epidemiology and are doing now with Sandra Melnick in Infectious Disease Epidemiology).

What I hope you would be willing to consider is for us to meet on your next visit and thereafter, if you come to this country, to develop grant applications to do the things we think should be done. If we can get a grant application that would involve half your salary and a few support personnel, we could move forward and create an exciting academic environment here in this area. Your collaboration with John Potter, John Belcher, David Jacobs and myself in particular and with our community activities which could certainly involve Lesley would be a happy occasion for us all.

Since my efforts of the last six months have been unsuccessful I would like to try this new tack. It, of course, requires our improving communications, or your coming to this country under another aegis. I haven't spoken to Basil Rifkin in some weeks since I wrote a strong letter of recommendation to him about you. I will explore how that's going, on a visit to Bethesda next week.

I was very interested to see your excellent cholesterol guidelines and the clever and useful chart. I wish our country had such an intelligent chart. On the other hand, I think our simpler message likely to be more effective for the public.

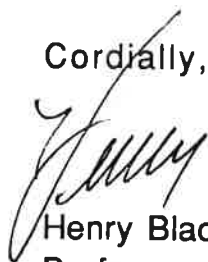
Referring to your April 25 letter, \$70,000 is modest in terms of survival in Washington. However, it is good in terms of U.S. government pay. One takes the excitement of being at "The Center" and the experience of being at the Center and learning the system and the contacts and visibility as an "investment" in future higher academic or industry "market value". That's just the way it is. I have no doubt that if you can arrange a working permit for Lesley that you will do quite well. Beth Schuker who was with

us for a number of years is now Basil Rifkin's right hand in many organizational activities in which Lesley might participate. I suggest that Lesley have a visit with her at the earliest opportunity. I will be happy to send Lesley's CV to her if things are moving forward on your appointment and you want me to.

In regard to your work in Bethesda, you would indeed have to respond almost totally to the practical charge given you and plan your future activities over a period of time. It would put your research back yet again, but it's, I'm sure, a worthwhile investment in the longterm. I'm disappointed if you haven't followed up with Tony Gotto as a vigorous center in this area, much more directly related to your interests, but I would still encourage you to push ahead with a 2 or 3 year appointment at Bethesda if nothing else is moving.

We're hoping that you're planning a Fall visit to the States, perhaps in conjunction with The American Heart Association Annual Scientific Session, or at the very latest the week of June 17, 1989 for the World Preventive Cardiology Congress in Washington. In this case we would certainly like to have you and Lesley come out for a visit.
Regards to you both.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, MD
Professor and Director

/tmw

@Vrasp - Rossouw



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

October 24, 1988

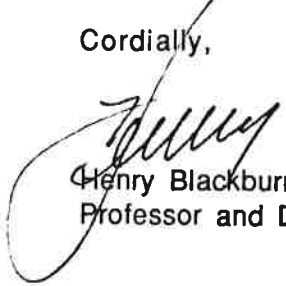
Rossouw
Dr Jacques E Rossouw
Heart Foundation of Southern Africa
801 Nedbank Center
Box 7091, Roggebaai, 8012
Foreshore, Capetown
South Africa

Dear Jacques:

Many thanks for your 5 October letter and the good news that things are moving forward for Bethesda. You should have a good period there and learn a great deal about our "system". We are going ahead with discussions about controlled diet studies, in part because we are so upset with the way they are being done in Grundy's shop. We would like to have you out here perhaps in late winter or early spring to discuss ideas and design. We think that our facilities and interest and Joan Slavin's interest, put us in a good position to reinstitute careful studies to develop new Keys-Minnesota equations based on lipoproteins and subfractions.

I enclose a copy of the abstract form for the June Preventive Cardiology meeting next year in case you have not received it yet.

Cordially,


Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

Enclosure (abstract form)

/tmw

pc: AEC committee
✓ David Jacobs
✓ John Belcher
✓ Robert Kane



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School of Public Health
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611 Beacon Street S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455
(612) 624-5400

Corresp - Rifkin

Confidential

May 25, 1988

5/27 MB

Basil Rifkin, M.D., Chief
Lipid Metabolism Branch
Div. of Heart & Vascular Diseases
NHLBI, NIH
Federal Bldg, Room 401
Bethesda, MD 20892

re: Dr. Jacques Rossouw

Dear Basil:

I have known Jacques Rossouw for a number of years through his clinical work in lipids and more particularly through his community interventions. He is a marvelous combination of sound clinical investigator, good clinician, preventive cardiologist and cardiovascular disease epidemiologist.

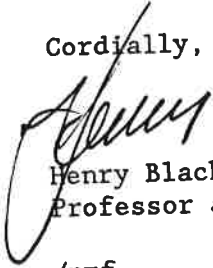
Dr. Barry Lewis knows more of the details of his conflict with the Director of MRC in Capetown than do I. Everything I have heard from Jacques's colleagues (I have met with and talked with many of them as recently as last year at the height of the problem) make it clear that the issue has nothing to do with wrong-doing, but rather is a personality clash based primarily on Dr. Rossouw challenging the Director of the MRC with some needed equipment purchases. I understand that this was used as the reason for the subsequent punitive actions that took place. Basically the issue, as I understand it, was a general lack of understanding of the importance of Dr. Rossouw's preventive type researches by a person who has worked at a much more clinical level and his lack of sympathy with such undertakings.

At any rate, none of the happenings that have developed reflect in any way on the competence, or scientific or personal integrity of Dr. Rossouw. It was an unfortunate and, apparently, unusually personal, vindictive situation by the MRC director.

Professor Barry Lewis at St. Thomas Medical School who collaborates actively with Dr. Rossouw, and was a South African, would be a useful source for confirmation as would David Kritchevsky who also collaborates with Dr. Rossouw.

As you know, I would very much like to see the Rossouws in this country, and at Minnesota, though it will not be possible for us to put together a position in the next period, due to our need to develop Cancer and Infectious Disease Epidemiology in our already top-heavy cardiovascular emphasis for a department of epidemiology.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

/nmf