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Dear Colleague:

Thank you for your kind letter of 6 August. It was delightful to have your message and the separate package from Madame Richard. The wool pullover looks marvelous on Stacy and will be most welcome as the crisp days of Fall approach.

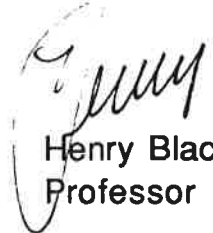
I recognize the difficulties in your country in undertaking a broad spectrum of preventive researches. I see many excellent investigators and groups frustrated by the inability to get support for needed researches. The secret in this country, of course, has been 1) the existence of NIH; 2) a deliberate policy to set aside a certain proportion of funding for preventive undertakings at the highest level, by those who understand the issues (because it will never be done by the clinical and basic scientists who feel threatened!); 3) The setting up of review bodies that provide competent peer review for good quality of work in epidemiology and prevention (the Epidemiology and Disease Control Study Section of NIH); 4) Building up strong constituencies, such as the American Heart Association, its Council on Epidemiology and the ISFC Council on Epidemiology and Prevention; 5) Creating a demand for preventive research and services at the level of the general public and eventually in Congress.

All of these steps need to advance together over time and can be deliberately approached. It might be good to take advantage of the recent enthusiastic preparations of the excellent French invitation for the International Conference of Preventive Cardiology to keep that group active in a planful way.

I think such a group, along with the Francophone epidemiology group, and your leadership, could well arrive at forward motion in this area. Please let me know if I can be supportive of that effort in any way.

Again thanks for your personal note and the lovely gift for Stacy.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, MD
Professor and Director

- ✓pc: Stacy Richardson
- ✓bpc: Andre Pasternac

/jrh