

Park Nicollet Medical Center

2001 Blaisdell Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404



April 12, 1989

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director
Division of Epidemiology
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
611 Beacon Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

RE: Ancel Keys, M.D., PNMC #850-15-02

Dear Henry:

I have your letter of March 28, 1989, with your concerns regarding Ancel Keys's medical therapy. I did talk with Dr. Mario Mancini of the University of Naples, Italy and I had also discussed Ancel's medical problem with Dr. Fred Taylor, his neurologist here in Minneapolis. The consensus in the United States is that heparin therapy is of no particular benefit in the situation of ischemic attacks. Dr. Mancini, however, feels strongly that from his personal experience it definitely "increases life expectancy" in the elderly. He reports an ongoing 5-year trial in Italy and the final data is not yet available, but it is his impression that 12,500 units of calcium heparin subcutaneously daily is of benefit.

I expressed some concern that Ancel's blood pressure at times does read quite high and, in fact, in the range of 160-170/100-110. Ancel, of course, denies that he has ever had a problem with hypertension, and heparin therapy in the presence of hypertension does have definite risks. Dr. Mancini and I did agree however that verapamil may be a good antihypertensive agent for Ancel and I have started him on Calan SR 240, a half a tablet daily. As long as Ancel's blood pressure is controlled, I don't suppose he should have any major side effects from the relatively low-dose heparin that Dr. Mancini recommends. I have discussed this with Margaret as well and we have agreed to go along with Dr. Mancini's recommendation. As you probably already know, the Keys's do plan to return to Italy within this next week and they will follow up with Dr. Mancini in Naples.

I do appreciate your concern over Ancel's medical condition and certainly would appreciate hearing from you if you have any particular thoughts about his management.

Sincerely yours,

4/25
Helen

Helen Wang, M.D.
Department of Endocrinology & Metabolism

HW/slh

*Allen: Thanks. The contact
w/ Mario was crucial.
That was my only
point. I have
no thoughts on
his therapy, but
am glad you've
formed
"consensus"
with the
auto-cratic
Continental
style!
Regards,
Henry.*

consensus - Wang



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*Epi Keys
Corresp-Wang*

March 28, 1989

✓ *3/29/89*
Helen Wang, M.D.
2001 Blaisdell Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404

*4/11/89 H.
pcv M. Mancini*

Dear Dr. Wang:

Ancel Key's physician in Italy, and long-term colleague, Mario Mancini at the University of Naples, has been calling me and Henry Keys on the issue of heparin therapy. It late occurred to me that these communications are not appropriate and that there should be direct communication between the two people responsible, that is Dr. Mancini when Ancel is there and you when he's here!

I wonder if you will be good enough to give Dr. Mancini a call at his home telephone number some morning, which should allow you to reach him at his office late in the day, or at home in the early evening. It would not be happy if Ancel received one treatment here and one treatment there and there was not some joining of the treatment plan. It also has Margaret Keys in a corner where she shouldn't be.

I hope you and Yang had a good vacation. I'm soon off on mine.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, MD
Professor and Director

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