

EXPRESSED 9/22
Corresp- Salonen



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Seppo Aro, MD, PhD
Chairman, Public Health Research section
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C.O. The National Board of Health
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Dear Professor Aro:

Your June correspondence was displaced in a long summer of travels. My sincere apologies for the lack of response.

The academic reputation of Dr. Jukka Salonen, internationally, is among the first caliber of epidemiologists and investigative scientists in the causes and prevention of major chronic diseases. His training is sound. His accomplishments, as you are well aware, were precocious and now have reached a remarkable level of maturity and productivity.

He is valued in the scientific community primarily for his conceptual ability in design, analysis and interpretation of population-based research.

He is unique in his ability to work among disciplines and across disciplines and with several methodologies to address scientific questions according to the stage of knowledge.

He is widely respected and admired for his prodigious productivity which I imagine is almost unequalled even among the most active and intensive of investigators in this broad field.

The general quality of his work is excellent, and in some cases exceptional. He has made particularly innovative contributions to the study of "new" risk factors more intimately related to fundamental mechanisms of cardiovascular diseases and cancer. He has early and effectively exploited advances in methodology and instrumentation, including objective markers of disease risk and quantitative measurements of disease endpoints.

He is forceful and effective in argument, both profound and broad in his grasp of issues.

In my view, and in the view of his many international collaborators, he is one of the more outstanding medical investigators; clearly he is in the top class among chronic disease epidemiologists. I am happy to attest to the great respect and admiration and standing that he commands in the international research community.

Sincerely,

Henry Blackburn (nf)

Henry Blackburn, MD
Professor and Director