

Concep Elliott



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11/9

November 9, 1990

Dr. Harry Beaty, MD
Dean
Northwestern University Medical School
303 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611

re: candidacy of Dr. Paul Elliott

Dear Dr. Beaty:

This letter is in regard to the candidacy of Dr. Paul Elliott for Head of Northwestern's Department of Community Medicine and Preventive Medicine.

Dr. Elliott is young, but educated, experienced and mature beyond his years. He has distinguished background in mathematics, medicine and epidemiology, a rare combination. Statistical expertise and a broad view of community and preventive medicine will stand him in good stead as will his clinical expertise. He has held prestigious clinical appointments in the distinguished teaching hospitals of London.

In scholarly effort, Dr. Elliott is a most effective and productive coordinator of the international study, INTERSALT, a cohort study within populations, and an ecological study between populations, of the relationship between sodium and potassium output and blood pressure level. He is an outstanding leader in the field of cardiovascular disease epidemiology and prevention and a recognized expert in clinical trial design and operation. He has increasing experience and stature in the epidemiology of environmental health. He has always collaborated with outstanding investigators in the field including Geoffrey Rose, Michael Marmot, Jerry and Rose Stamler and Alan Dyer.

His productivity is prodigious, with 11 book and monograph chapters, of which he is senior author in 9, and with some 40 other articles. There is good balance between collaborative studies and senior authorship and between data-based papers, methodology and editorial and policy reviews. I have read several of these articles and monograph chapters and would characterize his work as state-of-the-art, original and solidly based, and his syntheses as mature and challenging. His cv effectively outlines his contributions and his productivity, as well as his international recognition. His breadth of field and understanding of the research and teaching needs in

11/9 bpc: J. Stamler

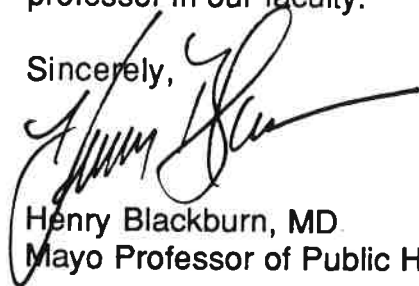
community medicine are remarkable.

With respect to the appropriate level of his appointment, we have the usual problems of translating experience from other cultures. Clearly, in this country, he would have been appointed assistant professor with his training and experience at the completion of his period as Medical Registrar in 1981, and would have been eligible within our system to have advanced to associate professor by 1987, latest, based on his productive career and two post-doctoral degrees, one in epidemiology and one in nutrition. His appointment in the U.S. to full professor would be a bit early in a traditional time track. However, we are fortunate in the U.S. to work in institutions where early promotion is possible for exceptional individuals, thereby recognizing unusual merit and the rejuvenating effect on institutions which can occur from such appointments. I think particularly back to the period of the '30s to the '50s in this institution where most of the major clinical, basic and public health chiefs were appointed in their mid and late '30s based on their outstanding promise. They were pioneers.

I believe that Dr. Elliott has comparable promise as an outstanding international leader in medicine. I believe that his attention to business and productivity indicate his conscientiousness and suggest that he will operate an innovative research-training-clinical service Division at Northwestern. At Minnesota we would look forward to continued collaboration with this remarkable group. It would be particularly fortunate if Dr. Elliott were able to continue the strong Stamler tradition and enlarge upon it with his broad disease and health interests and clinical skills.

I assure the authorities at Northwestern University that Dr. Elliott is regarded with the highest esteem by those in the field of epidemiology, clinical epidemiology, clinical trials and preventive medicine and that we would be excited to welcome him as full professor in our faculty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry Blackburn", written in dark ink.

Henry Blackburn, MD
Mayo Professor of Public Health

/nmf