



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
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April 22, 1980

Dr. John Durkin
President
Ramsey County Medical Society
908 American National Bank Building
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear John:

I was very encouraged after your call following my December 21st note about separating long term population researches of the School of Public Health from unrelated research and practice activities in the medical school which, apparently for good reason, has given concern to your staff and to the medical societies.

You suggested at that time that you or another member of the St. John's staff would be contacting me soon on whether we might proceed with our monitoring of coronary heart disease hospital diagnoses, as approved by the Ramsey County Society. Alternatively, you were going to indicate whether a visit from myself or Dr. French before your staff would be required. You can imagine that I have no desire to face the animosity of your group toward another colleague here at the University. But I would be interested in hearing whether the grounds for the earlier complaint that you have against Dr. Gilbertsen are still in existence, in which case I would continue to encourage the deans to correct the situation. Another alternative would be a clear statement from you, directed probably to Lyle French, indicating that a future collaboration with University Health Sciences, and specifically with School of Public Health projects which are well known to Vice President French and to President MacGrath, would be impaired unless there is a resolution of "the other matter" to the satisfaction of all.

If, on the other hand, these other matters are now largely in the past, I'm sure, that the basic fairness of your staff would not allow any past individual antagonisms to interfere with future collaboration with all branches of Health Sciences.

Apparently the only two hospitals in the entire Seven County Metro area in which our School of Public Health staff is not welcomed is St. John's and Mounds Park, and I believe there is considerable overlap of their staff. Thus, I would be very grateful for your attempts to move this situation off dead center by whatever gesture or information is needed from me or from the University.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director