

WELLINGTON HOSPITAL



Address communications to
Official title appearing below:

Private Bag,
Wellington Hospital.

Please quote reference

Riddiford Street,
Newtown, Wellington, 2.

Telephone 855-999

Epidemiology Unit

Give Freeman to HS

R.P. ✓

T.K. ✓

A.L. ✓

RFG

Post at SER

2 May 1980

Professor Henry Blackburn
Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota
Mineapolis, Minnesota
U S A

Dear Henry

I very much enjoyed getting the copy of the workshop report on the Health Effects of Blood Lipids and am sorry I did not get to you the more definitive writing up of the Tokelau/Pukapukan comparison so that you could have included it. The report is certainly a very useful one.

I am sorry that your visit to New Zealand and in particular, your stay in the Taupo area, did not allow us to take you to Rotorua so that you would have realised that Rotorua and Taupo are a long way apart in that coconut eating, as set out on page 635, is fairly uncommon in the Rotorua Maori. In fact, Table 28 represents the cholesterol levels in the two groups of Maori - Tiki Tiki and Rotorua (Rotorua town dwelling and Tiki Tiki rural). Still, the blame is I guess ours for not keeping up with publishing our data, or at least, sending you the right reprints.

I am writing to seek your help in recruiting a recently graduated epidemiologist into the position that John Stanhope is vacating. He and his wife have decided to go back to Australia, leaving at the end of this year. We have decided to try to recruit a recently graduated MD or non MD epidemiologist to help, particularly with the further writing up of the Tokelau Project. The person could also be involved in field work in our return visit there next year.

We have set ourselves the end of 1983 for the major writing up and closing up of the Tokelau Project, although what happens after that would be dependent on new proposals and the opportunities that are available, particularly for intervention studies.

I think Gary Fraser is pretty ^{da} ~~weather~~ed to his SDA California activity and unlikely to come back to New Zealand at this stage.

You may have heard that Jaakko Tuomilehto from the North Karelia Project is coming to the Western Pacific Region of WHO as Adviser on Cardiovascular Diseases, which will be a good asset.

We are having a further teaching course in Epidemiology and Prevention in Singapore in early September and he is going to be with us, as well as Robert Beaglehole, Dick Brand and myself and a Singapore Epidemiologist, Dr Lee Hin Peng, comprising the Faculty.

I have sent a copy of this to Dick Remington and will also send a copy to Mischel Ibrahim in North Carolina. It would be good if you could bring to light a suitable person to work with us.

With kind regards

yours sincerely



I. Prior
DIRECTOR

Encs.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene
School of Public Health
Stadium Gate 27
611 Beacon Street S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

May 19, 1980

Dr. Ian Prior
Director, Epidemiology Unit
Wellington Hospital
Wellington, New Zealand

Dear Ian:

Thanks for your note. I'm glad you found the Optimal Lipids report useful. I knew that I was not getting the full picture of your populations, but don't believe I had the data in hand. I hope I didn't misinterpret what I did have, but I detected a note of pique in your letter. Set me straight please!

I'm taking the liberty of posting your position notice at the Society for Epidemiological Research which is to meet here in Minneapolis next month. Good skills and maturity in this area are in great demand and all I can do is to publicize your need. Because our Laboratory is not turning out epidemiologist types yet, I am unable to establish what could be a fruitful working liaison with your center. There are plans a very few years down the way to rectify that situation.

We're very much involved now with a large community demonstration project just funded for five years. We hope to do a good job, but it is not nearly as rich a field as you have at your disposal for surveillance and intervention. We are nevertheless finding many interesting spin-off projects of scientific interest in demonstration undertakings. Jaakko and Pekka have done a marvelous job. We hope to tighten up some of the design features and have an important Minnesota demonstration in the next decade.

It was good to get news of and from you. Nelly and I send best regards to you and Elespie.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director

HB/rc