

From
Henry Blackburn and
Alessandro Menotti
Division of Epidemiology
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis MN

Scan serially

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ms*

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To
Prof Ancel Keys
410 Groveland Ave
Minneapolis 55403

July 7, 1995

Dear Prof Keys,

we have right now received copy of your letter to Daan Kromhout with the enclosure. It is a pity that once again we incur in such misunderstandings about common work and interests.

Our recollection of the story concerning the paper produced in Bilthoven on weight and weight changes, goes back to last fall, when a ms was first circulated following the agreed procedure for analysis and Authorship. We discussed also with you about the issue and you stated that you did not want to be involved in that paper. Its should be also said that it does not incorporate the whole Seven Countries data but only the European cohorts. The senior Authors and Daan Kromhout have asked and obtained the consent from the original Seven Countries P.I.s to use those data for analysis and publication. As sometime one of us (AM) did in the past in Rome, Daan Kromhout occasionally involves into analysis and Authorship some capable collaborators for specific purposes.

Following that event and other similar ones, we all agreed that whoever want to produce analysis informs the senior investigators but these are free to become Authors or to withdraw from the offer.

Again, as a consequence of your insistence on the need to keep all investigators properly informed, last May one of us (AM) went purposely to Bilthoven to visit Daan Kromhout, and together we prepared the Report recently distributed which describes all what is going on at the moment.

We hope that you will refrain from any precipitous action with the Editor of the Journal of Obesity, since we believe that the procedure adopted in that occasion was the proper one. We hope to find the way to get clearance of the paper.

Nobody denies your authority and precedence in the use of the whole data. On the other hand all of us have worked hard and we feel that data belong to all who

have spent large part of their life in collecting, organizing , analyzing and publishing them.

We are ready to discuss with you about the whole matter hoping to find a permanent solution.

All the bests. Yours sincerely

Henry Blackburn

Alessandro Menotti

approved on the phone

410 Groveland Ave. No. 802
Minneapolis MN 55403
16 August 1995

Dr. Henry Blackburn, Mayo Professor
Division of Epidemiology,
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota
1300 South Second Street
Suite 300
Minneapolis MN 55454-1015.

Dear Henry,

On last weekend, August 12 and 13, Margaret and I took part in a memorable event, the 50-year re-union of the men who were subjects in the starvation experiment. We flew to Washington with our daughter Carrie, rented a car and Carrie drove us 50 miles to New Windsor, Maryland. There we were housed in the Mennonite Conference center and the meetings were in the next door building that formerly was a part of the now defunct college.

Among the 37 men who had been subjects in the starvation experiment, seven had died. Some were too ill to attend, including the subject who 5 years ago had made a fine film of the history of the experiment. Alas! a recent brain tumor interrupted his plan to attend. But 18 men who had been starved were there. Among the staff who had run the experiment, besides myself, Yoshka Brozek, Olaf Mickelson, Nedra Foster, and Angie Sturgeon Skinner took part. All grieved for those who had gone, the men who had died including Henry Taylor, Austin Henchel and Ernst Simonson. So we stood for a minute of silent remembrance of the subjects and staff who were no more.

The talks were extremely interesting. Besides telling about their current activities, they showed their continued devotion of the former subjects to humanitarian causes. Some of the proceedings were recorded and I hope they will be made generally available, perhaps published in part. Yoshka asked me if I could arrange for re-printing our great two-volume book "Human Starvation". Impractical, I answered.

Perhaps this letter may be of interest to others on the staff.

Yours,


Ancel Keys

C. Menotti

410 Groveland Ave. No. 802
Minneapolis, MN 55403
19 August 1995

Dr. Alessandro Menotti
Division of Epidemiology
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Dear Alessandro,

I have received copies of your two mss. and I am again impressed with your diligence. The ms on prognosis is outside my competence for comment. I think you may have trouble with journal editors but I hope all goes well. Regarding the ms on stroke, the problem is making sure of the kind of stroke.

fine

In any case I see no reason why I should be named as a co-author for either report. I have been troubled for some time about the naming of authors for Seven Countries mss. I think the contribution to getting the original data must always be stated but I think the list of names as co-authors should be restricted to persons who have taken some part in the production of the ms.

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of course!*

Some colleagues, including myself, are not satisfied by being only listed as a co-author of reports of which they had no part beyond saying no objection to the ms. Some of us want to make independent analyses and write independent reports. We don't want to feel that you and Daan Kromhout, together with David Jacobs, are owners of the Seven Countries data.

Regards,

Awful!

Ansel Keys

Ansel: We have an editorial process approved by all investigators. Your remarks are inappropriate & uncollegial. For years you have directed this. Now let a fairer process operate. Please don't continue your complaints & threats against your most supportive colleagues.

James