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Rautaharju

September 26, 1994

pc: Pentti

Curt Furberg, MD
Head, Epidemiology and Community Medicine
Bowman Gray School of Medicine
3005 Hawthorne Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

Dear Dr. Furberg:

It is with pleasure that I join with other colleagues to write this letter on the "suitability" of Professor Pentti Rautaharju for the academic position of Full Professor with Tenure in your institution.

My association with Dr. Rautaharju goes back to 1958. Thirty-six years of collaboration, collegiality and friendship allow me to evaluate him as a person of immense scientific and academic stature.

Dr. Rautaharju has been a leading bioengineer to translate data on cardiovascular and pulmonary function recorded with state-of-the-art technology, in numbers and populations appropriate to effective analysis, resulting in practical applications of immense value to population studies and clinical trials in this country and abroad.

Dr. Rautaharju has systematically developed the concepts, the engineering principles and hardware, and in collaboration with us and many others has acquired data and prepared criteria for classifications of disease, now being applied in many of the major population studies of research universities and the government.

He has done this with his various teams in Dalhousie and Edmonton but largely single-handedly, from the conceptual and leadership standpoint.

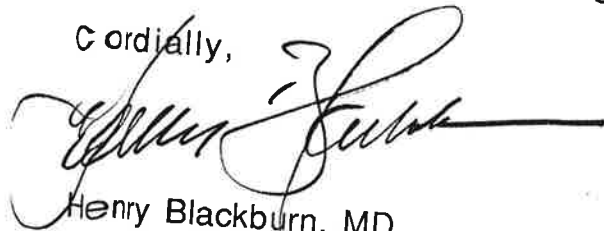
I think it is marvelous that at this stage of his career he may have an academic appointment in which this technology can be applied to

description of populations, to definitions of a disease and to prediction of disease risk.

His sophistication in medical biology, physiology, biophysics, engineering statistics and epidemiology is probably among the highest ever combined in an individual mind.

I would think your institution, any institution, would be privileged to have Professor Rautaharju on board to implement its researches, stimulate its students and faculty, and participate in the leadership that your department and your institution is developing. It is a privilege to send you this commentary on our colleague.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, MD
Mayo Professor of Public Health