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Dr. Jasenka Demirovic
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Dear Jasenka:

Thank you for your kind card following your visit to The Bobcat. It was a delightful afternoon. I hope we get to have you there at greater leisure. The next day was my birthday and I had my cousins, Jeanie and Steve, out for the remains of the beans and rice, along with my 82 year-old black nannie who took care of me and my small brother 60 years ago. She is still well and extremely alert and recalls great details of those days. The happiest event, of course, was having a party and all friends gathered. The next was having Stacy spend 5 whole nights with me in the cabin, a record.

I was very late hearing about Geoffrey Rose's illness too. When something that important happens to somebody that important, other people just assume that all know. The Stamlers knew a couple of weeks before I did. Fortunately, I was able to have two exchanges of correspondence with him and actually have a letter under glass on my desk written in his tiny hand just a week or so before he died, speaking of the miracle of subcutaneous heroin in relieving his pain.

So you are not at the end of the world. We are all at the end of our worlds and we must do more, as you do so effectively, in keeping our world together.

My last communications from Fred Epstein indicate to me the depth of his "exhaustion" as he calls it, from preparing the major presentations he made at Fukuoka, for the Seven Countries book and for the Ancel Keys

Lecture, all during the turbulent period of Doris' need for him. It sounded to me as if it were a depressive sort of paralysis, but entirely situational and one that I would expect to resolve as spring arrives and as Doris is more mobile and stronger.

At the moment, we are working hard, as you can imagine, on the competitive renewal of MHS and have been granted a short reverse site visit in Washington with Darwin Labarthe as chairman of the review group. So we are fortunate that we will be able to make the best case possible. With my semi-retirement, Russ's activities about the world, and Mike Sprafka's leaving, I am not sure how convincing a case we will make. I am, however, quite sure that Eyal Shahar and Paul McGovern, together with the new person we are recruiting, will make things go.

As far as the recruitment for two positions in CVD epidemiology, we have two internal candidates, Pat Elmer and Eyal Shahar who may win both positions so that we won't have any external candidates or new blood in the Division. That's a shame. On the other hand, we need to recognize with tenured positions the strong people that we have. Both Pam Shreiner and Donna Arnett will interview for the job along with several others.

Thanks for your note.

Regards,



Henry Blackburn, MD
Mayo Professor of Public Health