

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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✓ nb  
December 10, 1993

Hiroyasu Iso, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Institute of Community Medicine  
University of Tsukuba  
1-1-1 Tennoudai, Ibaraki 305  
JAPAN

Dear Iso:

It was wonderful to see you and Mizue and your marvelous big boy, as well as to have the pleasant time together in Osaka.

Plans are now moving forward for me to take terminal leave from the University starting January 1, 1995. I have already started making preparations for this with a 90 degree change in my career direction and I hope to make that a 180 degree change. I truly hope to devote myself to thinking and writing in new areas, as well as to long neglected personal commitments to Stacy, my grandchildren, other relatives in Minnesota and in Florida.

I really plan to continue my present writings of a historical nature for the next year or two, and then to focus on professional, personal and musical memoirs. Along with this I hope to devote more effort to other artistic pursuits, primarily musical.

Thus, I am making a concerted effort to not continue with my former pattern of activities. I have resigned from all research projects. I have decided not to participate in next year's Congress of Cardiology or any major epidemiological meetings except our own little American Heart Council meeting, which will be in Tampa near my wilderness cabin in March, 1994. I just want to be sure that you understand what I am thinking about doing so that Professor Iida and Yoshio Komachi will be minimally upset about my turning down their delightful invitation to return in January, 1995.

I have particularly admired Geoffrey Rose the last two years completely stopping his activities and devoting himself to new activities. Unfortunately, he didn't live long enough to enjoy this change in activity with retirement. I am hoping to have time to enjoy creativity in new areas and thus, I am accepting no new major professional engagements. In many ways this is sad because I enjoy my activities and my colleagues so much. On the other hand, I really feel it is best to make a real change of 180 degrees rather than just a few degrees always from a lifetime custom.

Again, I am pleased and flattered that Komachi and Iida think that I am the best person to talk about practical contributions of epidemiology. They have given me a good idea for an editorial. But I am rather deliberately and persistently removing myself from the active scene in epidemiology.

I was very impressed to see the productive continuation of your career, which should be an excellent one. I am sure you will be a whole person in regard to your professional, your family, and your personal life and will avoid what many of us of my generation have emphasized in a poor balanced between professional, family and personal opportunities for enrichment.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry (nb)".

Henry Blackburn, MD  
Mayo Professor of Public Health