

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

Division of Epidemiology

Suite 300

School of Public Health

*1300 South Second Street
Minneapolis, MN 55454-1015*

612-624-1818

Fax: 612-624-0315

✓ 9/27 np
September 24, 1994

Pentti Rautaharju, MD, PhD
Director, Professor
Department of Medicine
Cardiac Epidemiology Coordinating
and Research Centre
Heritage Medical Research Building
Room 213
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA T6G 2S2

Dear Pentti:

I was delighted to hear recently the news of your upcoming move to Bowman Gray. It is, I think, a marvelous institution that Curt Furberg is developing there. I suppose we should be particularly pleased that Minnesota-trained and Minnesota collaborators over the years are playing such a strong role in that development. How many are there now? Furberg himself, Greg Burke, Pentti Rautaharju, Maurice Mittelmark, Grethe Tell, John Flack!

I am also delighted that you are moving southward and am hoping that you will be able to function more as an academic and less as administrator in this marvelous new position in a very stimulating young center.

I am sorry that Paul Armstrong turned out to be a needling critic rather than supportive. That's certainly no way to administer a department of medicine. I am delighted, however, you will have a warmer physical and intellectual climate.

I guess I don't understand how "regulation for pensions" could be changed in a way to be deleterious for you in the period of life when your pension plan should have been accumulating most rapidly. Though I guess it is our personal responsibility to know what's going on in these things, if you were improperly informed you should certainly consider taking legal action for restoration of whatever pension would be appropriate for you many year's service!.

I understand a little of this, having had first the blow of the divorce when Nelly got a substantial part of my pension and just three years later the collapse of the stock market in which 75% of my pension fund was invested (like you without my full knowledge or understanding of the nature of the investment). So I lost again a third of my investment at that time. It has taken me a long time to recover from those two

decimations. My decision to retire rather than to stay and draw a salary in my endowed Chair is the third major blow to my pension fund. On the other hand, with finally a decent income, though nowhere near comparable to others in my situation, I will have a nest egg on the date of my retirement, which has been set for December 31, 1995. That nest egg will give us, as interest, about half what we need to live on. Fortunately, I am very much sought after by local insurance companies as an underwriter and as long as I stay healthy and Stacy can bring in a modest income, we will be comfortable. You understand all these issues. I am sorry that you have had this blow. It's certainly true that one usually begins to think about money a little late in academic life, it seeming so unimportant in earlier life. On the other hand, the idea that you will have another academic period at Bowman Gray, plus your ability to be a valuable consultant, and Farida's new undertakings in health care management, should set you up in good shape.

Finally, I am terribly sorry to hear about your brother and sister-in-law. Is that the brother who stayed back on the farm and does that mean the homestead is now gone?

Please come by and visit us on the way down. Also in Florida you will be welcome in what will be our usual hexagonal vacation dwelling during January and February if you would like to take some time off and be lazy on the beach or to use our wilderness cabin as a base of operations.

Maybe we could arrange a quasi-official discussion of the Miami, Bowman Gray and Minnesota ECG Centers, based in our place, at the time of the final review of the Prineas-Crow joint grant submission in January. Think about it. Let us know and keep in touch.

Love to you both,



Henry

p.s. Excuse me if I didn't use your CV and publications as documentation in my letter to Furberg. I just dealt with your overall contributions.. I am immensely impressed with your publication list which I hadn't seen in some time. I had heard of your vigorous new efforts in the CHS and NHANES. It is nice to see their outcomes. I am sorry that our collaborations in some of these areas dissolved over the years. But I suppose it was inevitable with the directions I felt I had to turn to.

At any rate, put me on your reprint mailing list. Some of these issues I am beginning to get interested in again and need to read up on where you are.

I have enclosed my CV and publication list, in case you do not have them handy, and I express my sincere thanks in advance for composing this letter for me!

This Summer has been very busy and very sad in many ways. Two funeral trips to Finland within ten weeks (my brother and his wife). Our house is now for sale, and we plan to move to North Carolina by the end of this year. In a way it is good. It turned out that academic life for me here at the University of Alberta got frustrating with the arrival of the new head of medicine (Paul Armstrong, a cardiologist from Toronto). He questioned my research productivity and that was a bit too much for my liking. Perhaps a warmer climate will feel better after 33 years up here near the Arctic Circle! Unfortunately, regulations for pensions were changed just when we were negotiating the move here four years ago, with disastrous economic consequences for me. Nobody bothered to tell me then, and I learned about it just by chance. So is life.

Farida sends her love and affection. She is a good kid. Just got her PhD in health care management. This will finally help to get her a decent salary level which I could never give her because of the nepotism rules etc.

Best regards,

Pentti

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pentti', written in a cursive style.