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March 31, 1994

Dr. Ettore Infante
Senior Vice President
Academic Affairs
232 Morrill Hall

Dear Colleague:

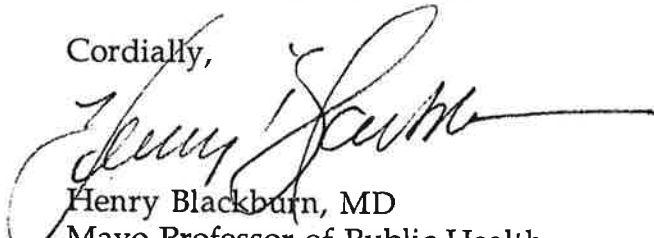
You were kind enough to respond thoughtfully to a letter last Fall on the dissolution of centers of excellence at this University. My predictions for our unit are, unhappily, coming true. We are being vigorously raided by Bowman-Gray University which has made firm offers to three of our faculty, one of whom has already accepted. We have just lost another, an outstanding younger investigator, to industry. This was due to his desperation over the absence of salary raises and the caps on promotional raises and other indicators that the University of Minnesota is not longer going to be a place that rewards excellence and enterprise.

In addition, M.D. Anderson Hospital, University of Texas, Houston, and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle are actively recruiting key people, including the director of our Cancer Prevention Research Unit, with offers that will be difficult for them to turn down.

It takes 20 to 40 years to build a center of excellence. This administration, this Legislature, this State, is teetering on the edge of losing much of its major strengths at this University.

I enclose the latest in my departmental efforts to plug the leak. Several here have been touched by my words, but their future at our University does not seem bright.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, MD
Mayo Professor of Public Health

enclosure

pc: E. Leyasmeyer