

From: "Russell Luepker" <luepker@epivax.epi.umn.edu>  
In: "EHn"EBg/ N# / . g <  
To: in%"blackburn@epivax.epi.umn.edu"  
Cc:  
Subject: Letter

*file personal*

Dear Henry,

Thanks for your letter. I am having a good time. They have been very supportive her and I'm glad that I have come to a smaller unit rather than one of the larger groups. I walk to work every morning but have access to the unit car. I'm not sure that I am as yet productive. I brought a tremendous amount of unfinished work from home and have spent the first two weeks wading through it. I also spent last weekend in Malmo where Lennart's 50th birthday was celebrated. Sven-Olaf Issacson sends his greetings. Dean told me that he would let me know as soon as he had decided. As I said, I think this is Marilyn's decision and, according to Dean, she is most unhappy. Let me know if anything develops. I have also shared this with Phyllis but not anyone else. You might talk to her.

I had heard a rumor that Carla was leaving. This may be the best opportunity for her as I don't believe she would get a faculty position in the department of medicine at Minnesota. I can't believe that she is in a position to finish her PhD in this short amount of time unless she has made significant progress of which I am unaware. She may wish to continue after she has left but this is rarely a good idea or successful. I know that Carla has many positive attributes but after two weeks in Singapore with her, I don't see her on an academic ladder. I do wish her well.

On a similar front and very confidential, is an approach from Nicole Lurie to transfer her appointment from the Institute to us. She is a star in the field and would be a loss to John K, whom she says is difficult to work with. I received this call just before I left and will talk to her when I return. I find that 'tincture of time frequently' turns a crisis into a non-issue and I do want to maintain good relations with other units to the extent possible.

I was impressed with all three of the candidates for the PHN position. Unfortunately the best outside candidates withdrew. My only concern is that none of them seems to have an idea or vision about what public health nutrition is about. (I don't know either but I'm not applying) They seem mainly interested in a secure, tenure track job. This isn't a bad goal but I'd at least like to hear about a view, any view, of the future and how they might pursue it. This search brought the whole issue of the 'mission of PHN' into my consciousness and I have asked Mary Story to articulate it for me. Pat Splett's definition was to train R.D.s for administering WIC and other public assistance programs. That is unlikely to carry us very far in the current era or future.

I am pleased to hear that your eye surgery went well. It is always frightening to have anything happen around your eyes. It is amazing what new techniques can do. My father in-law underwent a lid operation as well which was very helpful to him.

I am just returning from Nice and the program committee for the European Cardiology Society. They take such good care of you here. I sat next to Guy DeBacker and we put together the program for Epidemiology and prevention. It is interesting that our fields seem to have much more 'respect' at this group than they do at AHA or ACC. The ECS has built their own 'Heart House' to rival that in Washington. It is a elegant marble & glass building but is not anywhere near anything because the French wanted to have it there. It is also very clear that this organization is very close to industry and it has a significant though subtle effect on their decisions.

One of the things that I had hoped to do during this leave period is to sort through some of my responsibilities. I realize that I have accumulated too many again and need to work again to delegate. Having Phyllis help has been important but it is a mixed experience. On one hand she is a solid 'maintainer' and I need that help. She won't do anything radical or go off in another direction. On the other hand, she is very conservative, resisting any new ideas or different approaches to issues. Guess that I can't have everything. I have been moving slowly to getting more help from Aaron, I just wish he gave the appearance of being more people oriented (I think he really is but doesn't show it) At least I have been able to avoid two weeks of committee meetings by being

here. I've spent that time cleaning up work that I brought with me which has been very helpful. I have asked that Donna be added to the committee. One of the interesting experiences that I have had here is living in the nurses' dorm. This fulfills a student fantasy but I'm too old to care. Anyway, I have a cot-sized bed in a single room with 2 chairs, a sink, a kitchenette and desk. Other facilities are 'shared' so I have returned to the life of my student days. Fortunately Hugh has loaned me the unit station wagon so I have transportation and have found an exercise club which will charge me a daily rate. So life isn't half bad although I do have to eat my own cooking. Next week, I'm going to Donegal to see Paul and his family. I had met his mother and sister last summer and would like to see them again. It seems a certainty that his illness will progress and we need to be prepared to support him as this happens. I felt that making contact with his mother would help. I am particularly concerned about his finances as he has young children, and few years in the pension plan. I talked about this to Edith who commented on the university disability plan. However, that gives about 60% of salary (up to \$4,000/month). I would rather keep him on the regular payroll as long as possible so he can accumulate pension contributions and maintain income. I had also floated the idea (surely non-legal) of giving him an extraordinary raise which would be supported by the faculty who would 'donate' 1/4% of their raises to Paul. Of course, it would be voluntary. It would be trivial for anyone of us but could give him another 10%. Any thoughts on this idea? Well, I also have rambled on. Hope this letter finds you well.  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY,  
Russell

Return-path: <luepker@epivax.epi.umn.edu>  
Date: Wed, 12 Apr 1995 02:30:17 -0600 (CST)  
Date-warning: Date header was inserted by epivax.epi.umn.edu  
From: Russell Luepker <luepker@epivax.epi.umn.edu>  
Subject: Letter  
To: Blackburn@epivax.epi.umn.edu  
MIME-version: 1.0  
Content-type: TEXT/PLAIN  
Content-transfer-encoding: 8BIT