

To: The Principal Investigators of the Seven Countries Study

Dear Friends:

Please find attached here the manuscript of a paper entitled : "Dietary fibre and plant foods in relation to colorectal cancer mortality: The Seven Countries Study'." based on 25-year data of the Seven Countries Study.

After agreeing with Henry Blackburn we make the proposal to limit this and future authorships using the combined data of all 16 cohorts of the Seven Countries Study to:

- those who are presently in charge of the structure and the functioning of the project;
- those who make sound analysis proposals;
- those who make the analysis and write the manuscript;
- those who have already expressed personal and committed interest into specified topics.

In all cases the actual authors will sign the paper also "for the Seven Countries Study Research Group", and the individual group members will be mentioned when signatures are not requested by the editorial offices.

The reasons for the proposed limitation of authors are bound to the present day editorial rules which can be summarized as follows:

- major journals do not accept more than 6 authors;
- many journals require a detailed description of the role of each author in the preparation of the paper (conceptualization, analysis, writing, reviewing, etc.) and usually they do not accept as co-author a person who has only had the role to collect data;
- most journals request original signatures - not simply faxed signatures - in very short time to transfer copyrights, to declare that a persons is an author, to declare that the material was not published elsewhere, etc.;
- some journals demand a signature also from persons who are not authors but simply acknowledged;

All this poses remarkable difficulties in getting papers accepted, beyond long waiting times to get approvals, signatures, etc..

If this new attempt to rationalize the authorship of the Seven Countries data analysis is accepted, it will be followed automatically in the future.

We invite all of you to fill in DECLARATION 1 (all the addressees) and DECLARATION 2 (those listed as authors for the attached paper) and to send them back by fax **and** by mail for the original. It is intended that no answer to Declaration 1 within two weeks means a positive answer.

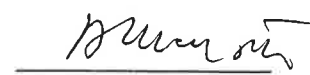
Thanks for the collaboration.

Yours sincerely

Daan Kromhout
Bilthoven, February 24, 1998



Alessandro Menotti



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