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Darwin Labarthe, MD
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Dear Darwin:

Many thanks for thinking of me for Barcelona. It's stupid not to go to a landmark conference in pleasant surroundings with delightful company. The topic you have assigned me is one that I am most comfortable with. But--

I mentioned to your assistant that Fred Epstein had these matters on the tip of his tongue and, in fact, is a central contributor about the public health implications of cardiovascular disease trends. In terms of technical presentation, our colleague, Paul Leaverton, also would do a wonderful job.

I am quite sad not to come to Barcelona, but at least for another couple of years I am not looking back at all, but trying to look forward in an entirely different vein. Besides I have very little new to say about the past. An attempt to say anything would be a diversion from my present calmer yet more focused preoccupations.

Stacy is beginning to give me a bit of guilt about not talking with Leaverton's students here, not planning for an *au revoir* at Tahoe this summer, and other issues in which she points out I am thinking of myself and not what she thinks I should be thinking of, the opportunity for a few students to be closer to me. Oh well, I am not depriving them of all that much, and I really have said enough and had enough time on the circuit. I've decided this week not to go to San Antonio as well.

I am working with a local book designer to put together my field adventures in the Seven Countries Study, and will probably have this privately published very soon. I see no real potential for getting it published otherwise. Next in priority are my own medical memoirs, followed by childhood and adolescent memoirs, followed by

musical memoirs. Down the line Fred Epstein and I may get up enough courage to start addressing the history of CVD epidemiology. This takes care of the next five years.

I am giving one final consideration to buying property on Anna Maria Island, a nostalgic scene of my youth and much loved by Stacy. I will kick myself if I don't. On the other hand, my cash flow situation, starting with retirement next year, will be far superior if I don't dive in over my head. Property values have doubled here in five years, of course. For another week I am keeping an open mind. (We signed today, and hope to build a Florida 16 pole (grid), or Cracker house net winter!)

Regards to you and Merrily and to all at San Antone.

Henry (nb)
Henry and Stacy

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