

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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*Twin Cities Campus*

*Division of Epidemiology  
School of Public Health*

*Suite 300  
1300 South Second Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55454-1015  
612-624-1818  
Fax: 612-624-0315*

May 24, 1996

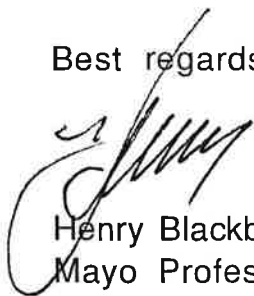
Professor A. G. Shaper  
8 Wentworth Hall  
The Ridgeway, Mill Hill  
London NW7 1RJ  
England

Dear Gerry:

Well, the toasts and roasts are done, the conference is wrapped up, and I shall soon have a manuscript to edit (my only active participation in the conference). The guests are departed and Stacy has taken off to join her two sisters for a week of theater in Manhattan. I take the opportunity of this temporary bachelorhood to catch up with notes.

I am just getting around to reading your kind letter which was presented to me on the night of the banquet. I very much appreciate your kind and thoughtful words. Your broad vision and joining of sound science, strong policy, and effective advocacy have been a model that we all admire and aspire to.

Best regards,



Henry Blackburn, MD  
Mayo Professor of Public Health (Emeritus)

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Norris Schultz  
4301 Madison St, NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55421

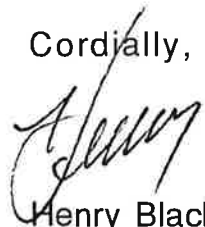
Dear Norris:

I am just getting around to reviewing the letters of greeting I got at the time of the symposium. I am very grateful and appreciative of your note and you did indeed help me in many ways throughout the years when I floundered with data from the CVD and railroad studies.

The symposium was a sound approach to the future of preventing high risk in the first place, and the banquet was a very heart-warming affair, sadly missing some of our longest term colleagues and a few with whom I had the closest intellectual companionship such as Henry Taylor, Geoffrey Rose, and Fred Epstein.

Again, thanks for your note and best regards.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, MD  
Mayo Professor of Public Health (Emeritus)

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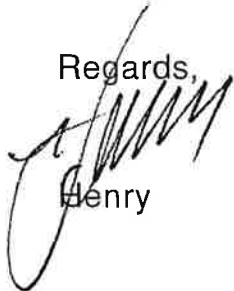
Charles Blackburn  
1617 Bolton Street  
Baltimore, MD 21217

Dear Charles:

Thank you for your note to Russell Luepker and to us. The conference was first-class and the banquet was about as close to a love-in as I have experienced. Unfortunately, all toasts and no roasts. We even had a little bit of music, I played a couple of numbers with Butch Thompson and he played piano behind the slide projection of my life and career. There were warm summaries from a limited number of people (21 people talked at my step-down banquet when I retired as chair of the department and that was fortunately avoided this time), particularly kind words from long-term colleagues Jeremiah Stamler, Jack Farquhar, Ron Prineas, Peggy Wedell (that's the nurse I have been associated with for 40 years), and Tess Sullivan. Kathy and Nola and the staff arranged for me to be presented two lovely wooden benches with plaques on them, highly suitable to a place in our Florida garden. We have been floating since, though now I am going through a five-day bachelor period in which Manhattan is being invaded by the three Richardson sisters. I am sure it will never be the same!

Again, thanks for your note. Everything is fine and I am now officially retired!

Regards,



Henry

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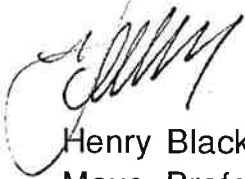
May 24, 1996

Ivan Gyarfas, MD  
World Health Organization  
CVD Unit  
1211 Geneva, 27, Switzerland

Dear Friend:

I got your April 15th letter on the night of the banquet celebrating my retirement. It seems that we are both "retiring." I fear that it is the indolence of our U.S. administration and congress in paying its United Nations' dues that might be indirectly associated with your retirement! If so, I am indeed sorry. It must be a considerable satisfaction for you, however, to have closed with such a long and satisfying and productive unit and to have participated in its distinguished history.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, MD  
Mayo Professor of Public Health (Emeritus)

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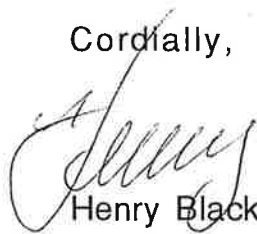
Dr. E. Dekker  
O. Nassaulaan 60 HS  
1075 AS Amsterdam  
Netherlands

Dear Friend Dekker:

How delightful to peruse the letters that were given to me in a lovely volume at the time of my retirement earlier this month. I have the greatest admiration for what you did with the Dutch Heart Foundation. It seems to me that it's continuing. So many institutions lose their drive when their early leaders depart and I am glad that you have the satisfaction of seeing your work continue.

I am very happy to have your warm note at this time in my life and treasure the experiences that we had together. Now I turn to a little "serious" writing and "serious" music.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, MD  
Mayo Professor of Public Health (Emeritus)

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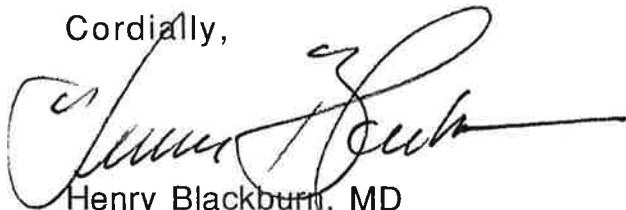
Dr. I. Balaguer-Vintro, MD  
Girona, 72, Pral.  
08009 Barcelona, Spain

Dear Colleague:

I want to thank you for the kind note you sent to me of April 10th that I received and was read at the time of the Minnesota conference celebrating my retirement. I much admire your wonderful activities in Barcelona and am only sad that I have not taken the occasion to visit them.

Of course, I am not completely retiring, but am reducing my horizons and travels and looking forward to a happy period of writing, of playing music, and of being close to my family and grandchildren. I was so pleased to get your special volume so beautifully illustrated last year, as well as to have your personal note at this time of my retirement.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, MD

Mayo Professor of Public Health (Emeritus)

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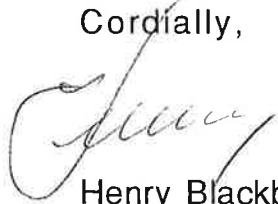
Tom Strasser, MD  
Secretary General  
World Hypertension League  
Avenue du Bouchet 20  
CH-1209  
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Tom:

I am sitting and relaxing after the Primordial Prevention conference. All the festivities are over and the guests gone home, and the roasts and toasts done. I am perusing the letters I got including your very kind letter of February 20th. I don't know if Russell responded in regard to your idea about "WHO and Henry Blackburn." I should be pleased and honored to have such a document.

I have written you earlier that your priority in the concept of primordial prevention was made very clear at the conference and I hope the conference is a small step in the right direction.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, MD  
Mayo Professor of Public Health (Emeritus)

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May 30, 1996

Suketami Tominaga, MD, MPH  
Director  
Aichi Cancer Center Research Institute  
1-1 Kanokoden Chikusa-Ku  
Nagoya 464, JAPAN

Dear Tomi:

How delightful to get your letter. It was a solid conference on Primordial Prevention and a delightful occasion with many good friends about. I look back on your and my collaboration as the most productive and satisfying of my research career.

Best wishes in your good works. Please do the same as you advise me, "enjoy your life and take care of your health!"

With great admiration and affection,



Henry Blackburn, MD  
Mayo Professor of Public Health (Emeritus)



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May 30, 1996

Ian Prior, MD  
Director  
Epidemiology Unit  
Wellington Hospital  
Riddiford Street  
Newtown, Wellington  
New Zealand

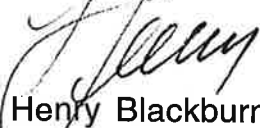
Dear Ian:

Wow, what a delightful koba/ Your wonderful letter was presented to me at the banquet, with its offer to come to New Zealand again, as well as the continued news of your accelerating campaign against nuclear growth. I will address all of these things at greater leisure once things calm down here. We have just lost the last of the guests who were able to come to the conference, and Stacy and her local sister has just joined their third sister who is an actress in New York for a week of theater. So I am taking the occasion of my temporary bachelorhood to catch up on correspondence.

I am so grateful for your note. The conference was fine and the roast/toast was delightful. Ancel and Jerry and Jack Farquhar and Ron Prineas, Al Tyroler and a number of others were there, but as you can imagine I particularly missed the spirits of Geoffrey Rose, Richard Remington, Joe Stokes and Fred Epstein, with whom I had planned to share ideas and toasts for a long time.

Back to you soon and, again, thanks.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, MD  
Mayo Professor of Public Health (Emeritus)

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May 24, 1996

William R. Harlan  
Associate Director for Disease Prevention  
National Institutes of Health  
Building 1, Room 260  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Bill:

I much appreciated your kind note received in a volume of letters at the time of our symposium here on primordial prevention. The conference was solid, the roasts and toasts were warm and convivial, the guests have all gone home, and now we can get on to new projects.

I have missed being in touch with you since you were bumped upstairs and would like to know more about your program for the future as well as the Women's Initiative.

I am keeping my finger in with the Minnesota Heart Survey, along with some folderol that you may have read about with the FDA Food Advisory Committee and olestra, and as consultant to the Mississippi case against the tobacco industry. I'm enjoying writing and regularly making music with good colleagues. This, plus a wonderful family and grandchildren nearby, and a 1930's cottage we have acquired in the beach of my youth, Anna Maria, Florida, makes life satisfying indeed. Obviously I am not sorry to be out of the struggle which is so intense these days. But those "re-engineering" our campus are bringing a chilling change to our productive and perhaps too comfortable academia.

Again, Bill, many thanks for your kind letter.

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, MD  
Mayo Professor of Public Health (Emeritus)

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May 24, 1996

Paul Leaverton, MD, PhD  
Professor  
College of Public Health  
13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33612-3899

Dear Paul:

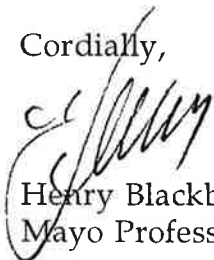
I got your note well before the recent occasion and understood that there was no possible way you could get here. The occasion was sweet, and there were mostly toasts and unfortunately?, no roasts. We may sneak in for a few days in June with two of the grandkids, but will be working here pretty actively until the 1st of January next year before we get a long visit back to Florida. Meanwhile, my garden on Anna Maria becomes a jungle and I miss it terribly.

We are very anxious to hear about your extended sabbatical and the activities of the revolution.

I was grateful for your talking in your letter about the interactions during your NHLBI stint and the marvelous meeting which you and Dick Carleton chaired, our last meeting with Abe Lilienfeld.

When you spoke of my developing a strong unit here, one can only be amazed at the rapidity with which academic institution can fluctuate. We are now up to our nostrils in fighting some real brown shirts, consultants (James Champy, CSC Index Co.) that have been brought in by William Brody, our former Provost (now headed to be president of Johns Hopkins). The rapidity with which Nazis can wreck the strength and spirit of an institution is unbelievable. Sic gloria transit mundi!

Cordially,



Henry Blackburn, MD  
Mayo Professor of Public Health (Emeritus)