

**LETTERS FROM FRIENDS
AND COLLEAGUES**

**From the International Symposium
Honoring the Career and Research of
Henry Blackburn, MD**

**“Primordial Prevention of
Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors:
Visioning the Future”**

May 2-3, 1996

THOMAS A. KELLER III
4800 NORWEST CENTER
90 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55402-4129

May 6, 1996

TKR

Dear Henry:

Much to my chagrin I was not able to attend the banquet in your honor last Thursday.

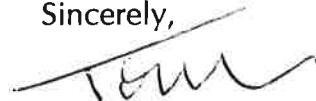
Nonetheless, I want to tell you how delighted I am that you received that singular recognition.

Your life's work has contributed enormously to the advancement of science and to the alleviation of suffering.

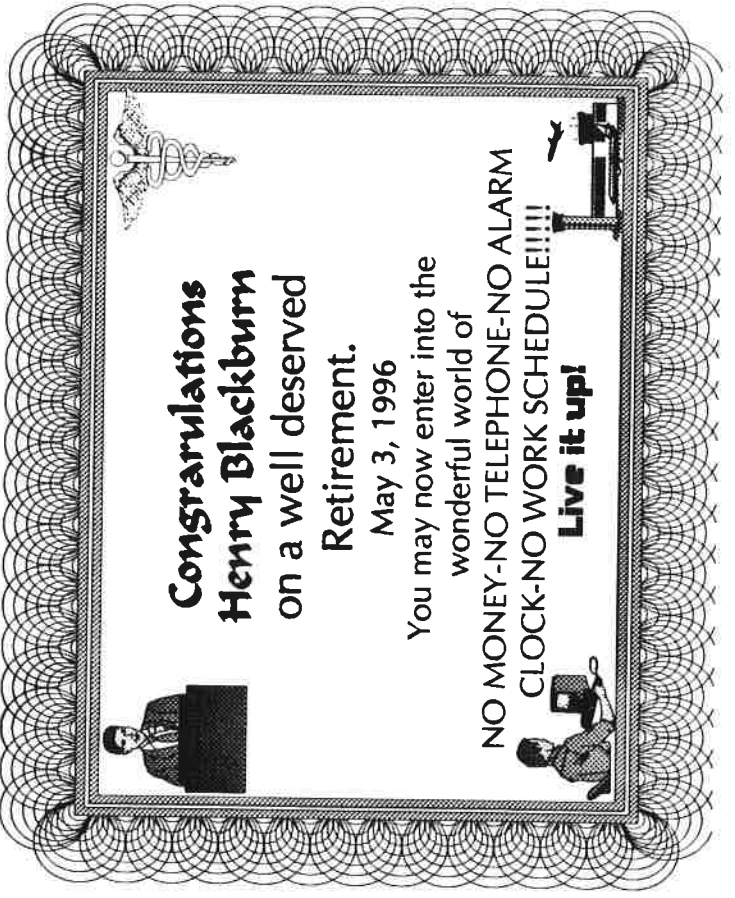
A multitude of human beings here and in distant lands, now and in the future, will owe life itself to your work and the work of others whom you have inspired. It is not too much to say that the call you have answered so magnificently is a divine one, a calling of grace and of awe.

It is my hope that you derive deep personal satisfaction from what you have done, a satisfaction which you richly deserve.

Sincerely,



Henry W. Blackburn, Jr. M.D.
1525 Kaltern Lane
Minneapolis, MN 55416

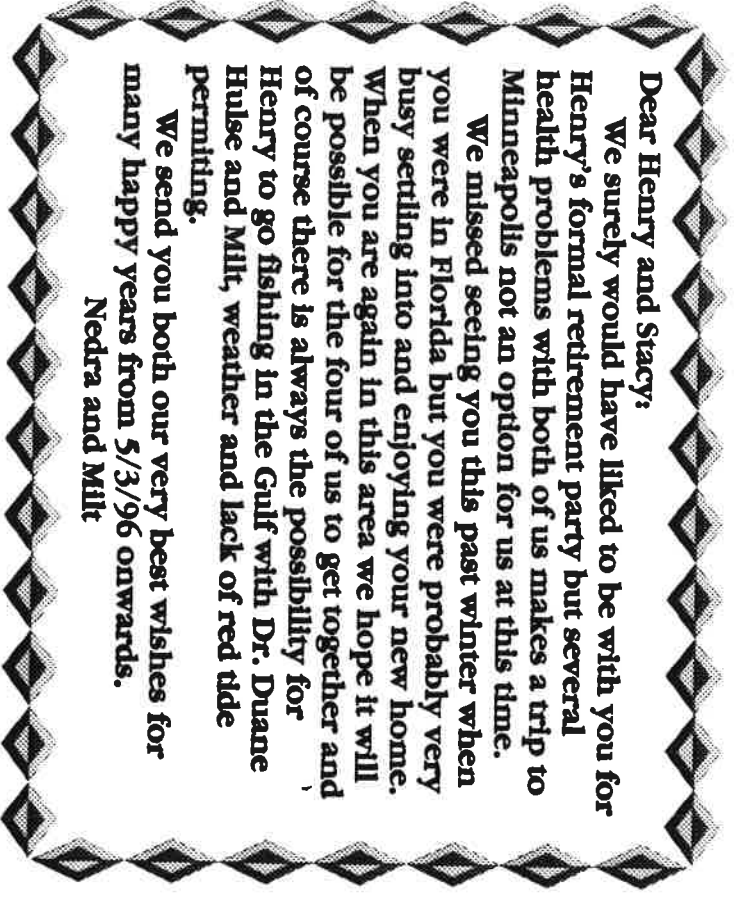


**Congratulations
Henry Blackburn**
on a well deserved
Retirement.
May 3, 1996

You may now enter into the
wonderful world of
NO MONEY-NO TELEPHONE-NO ALARM
CLOCK-NO WORK SCHEDULE!!!!
Live it up!

4/29/96

Dear Henry 111
 My "important" part
 of it - all - is that of pleasure
 to come from the "big event"
 but am no "grateful" to a son
 I have for a "big pleasure"
 Thank you very much and
 "live it up!"
 Nedra and Milt



Dear Henry and Stacy:
 We surely would have liked to be with you for
 Henry's formal retirement party but several
 health problems with both of us makes a trip to
 Minneapolis not an option for us at this time.
 We missed seeing you this past winter when
 you were in Florida but you were probably very
 busy settling into and enjoying your new home.
 When you are again in this area we hope it will
 be possible for the four of us to get together and
 of course there is always the possibility for
 Henry to go fishing in the Gulf with Dr. Duane
 Hulse and Milt, weather and lack of red tide
 permitting.
 We send you both our very best wishes for
 many happy years from 5/3/96 onwards.
 Nedra and Milt

May 3, 1996

Henry,

On the occasion of the celebration of your career, I wanted to express my admiration, my appreciation, and my thanks. You gave me...

- An Opportunity, when I was a young post-doc wondering what I should do;
- An Environment that encouraged new ideas and supported research excellence;
- An Approach, namely the role of lifestyle and the population-view;
- The Tools, obtained by on-the-job survey work; and
- A Model of how to be productive, to write clearly, and to pursue understanding through epidemiology.

Thank you! Clara

Dr. E. DEKKER
O. NASSAULAAN 60 HS
1075 AS AMSTERDAM
TELEFOON 020 - 6712199

*Reply on
Japic -
File Symp.
Letters*

Dear Dr. Blackburn,

Amsterdam, February 25, 1996

The announcement of the congress on primordial prevention of cardiovascular risk factors just dropped on my mat. With the usual mixture of admiration and regret that I can no longer reasonably afford to attend such excellent programs, I am about to let it slide into the paper basket, when I suddenly see your name in large red print over the announcement of a recognition reception and banquet, and so the regret doubles.

Please allow me, therefore, to join the reception line and take my turn, at least in writing, to say a few words of thanks and admiration. Thanks for the support that your work gave to the preventive endeavor of the Dutch Heart Foundation in the years 1971 thru 86 when I was serving as its medical director. I had the privilege to be in your audience on several occasions, both in the conference rooms and at the banquets, and witness a great scientist and a brilliant musician at work and play.

Thank you for being one of the great attractors in world epidemiology. Thank you for being so kind.

Sincerely yours,

Bart Dekker



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February 15, 1996

Henry Blackburn, MD
Mayo Professor of Public Health
University of Minnesota
Division of Epidemiology
School of Public Health, Suite 300
1300 South 2nd Street
Minneapolis, MN 55454-1015

Dear Henry:

I've just received a letter from Russ Luepker informing me of the two-day symposium on Primordial Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors and the Henry Blackburn Recognition Reception and Banquet. I sincerely regret I will be unable to attend as I am teaching the course for our PhD students in Epidemiology on May 2, and on May 3 we have our annual one-day San Diego Epidemiology Exchange.

However, I would like to formally express my gratitude to you for the knowledge and insight you have shared over these past two decades, in particular at our annual meetings at the Tahoe Seminar. I also regret that you are in any way formally leaving the field, but I trust that when the occasion arises we will be able to lean on you for your wisdom, as we have been accustomed to doing over the years.

Give my best to everyone in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Mike

Michael H. Criqui M.D., M.P.H.
Professor, Departments of Family and Preventive Medicine
and Medicine
Director, Preventive Cardiology Academic Award

MHC:pv

CC: Russell D. Luepker, MD



May 30, 1996

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Public Health Sciences

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Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Division of Epidemiology
School of Public Health
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1300 South Second Street
Minneapolis, MN 55454-1015

Dear ^{Henry} Dr. Blackburn:

I was delighted to hear from my colleagues that the conference on Primordial Prevention was extremely successful and scientifically rewarding. I was very disappointed in not being able to personally attend as I was unable to change a previous scientific commitment.

In retrospect, the time that I spent in Minnesota working with you greatly enhanced my abilities as a collaborator and scientist. In a more global sense your thoughtful insights and scientific rigor provided a model for a generation of young scientists. In addition, the concept that "If it's not fun, it's not Epidemiology" allows for the enthusiasm and spark required for success.

In the near future I will be contacting you to determine if you have an interest in visiting our group and presenting a departmental seminar. In our discussions of potential speakers I was extremely surprised to learn that you had not previously been invited to Bowman Gray given the large number of your colleagues with Minnesota connections. I would be delighted if you could fit a visit to our institution into your busy schedule.

In summary I'd like to thank you for your guidance and assistance with my personal career development and to wish you continued success as you move into the next stage of your professional and personal life.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Gregory L. Burke'.

Gregory L. Burke, M.D., M.S.
Professor and Vice Chairman

GLB\tsb

WAKE FOREST

The Bowman Gray School of Medicine

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