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July 12, 1995

Professor Daan Kromhout
Director, Public Health Research Division
RIVM
PO Box 1
Antonie van Leeuwenhoeklaan 9
3720 BA Bilthoven, The Netherlands

Dear Daan:

As Alessandro has told you, he and I sent a letter to Ancel and then visited him. We assured him that you operated in good faith, and that we bore part of the responsibility for not flagging this obvious conflict of interest. Ancel had indeed established clear priority to deal with this area, and we assumed all knew that, and that he was working, for 1-2 years on these analyses.

At any rate, the result was favorable. He has chosen to pretend that your ms. doesn't exist. This means you should go ahead and publish it. He rose to the bait when I took him a copy of the Peters, Seidel article, and is sending you a critique. He may have a point in that the cohorts within countries are very different in their traits and rates and shouldn't be pooled.

Our problem is to try to help him now with publication of his article (which he thinks should go to the NEJM!).

The accompanying fax from him enclosed should be, for the time being, closure on the matter. At least, he now knows who Seidel is, and it would be nice if in future Seidel would maintain a scientific discourse directly with Ancel.

Regards,



Henry