



National Institutes of Health  
National Heart, Lung, and  
Blood Institute  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

MAR 13 1998

Henry Blackburn, M.D.  
Mayo Professor of Public Health  
Division of Epidemiology  
1300 South Second Street, Suite 300  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55454-1015

Dear Dr. Blackburn:

I want to thank you for your participation in the recent conference held in San Francisco, *Cardiovascular Health: Coming Together for the 21st Century*. From all the reports that we have received, it appears to have been an enormously successful conference. Your presentation at the opening plenary was certainly a most significant contribution to this success.

Your discussion of the revolution that has reversed the epidemic of heart disease and of current developments that now threaten this revolution was especially cogent and important for the audience to hear. In view of the backlash you spoke of, I hope that your warning will lead to increased vigilance and that there will be a redoubling of efforts aimed at education, risk-factor reduction, and health promotion.

Thank you again for your willingness to speak at this conference. I know how full your schedule must be and I appreciate your having taken the time to be with us.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Claude".

Claude Lenfant, M.D.  
Director



National Institutes of Health  
National Heart, Lung, and  
Blood Institute  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892  
FAX (301) 402-0818

April 28, 1998

Henry Blackburn, M.D.  
Division of Epidemiology  
School of Public Health  
University of Minnesota  
Suite 300  
1300 South Second Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55454-1015

Dear Dr. Blackburn:

Thank you for your recent letter in response to mine of March 13. I especially appreciate your comments about our relationship with the epidemiology community. I suppose you may be surprised to hear that I am baffled and distressed by what is going on. Somehow I see an increased polarization on the issues and am concerned that doors which are shut or are being shut, will further limit communication.

I do not believe for one minute that everything that the Institute does is always right, or even the best, but also I do not believe that our current detractors or critics are always on the side of the angels!

Of course, I do not know what you hear and from whom, but would like to underscore that anything we do is the result of documented advice from experts in the epidemiology and prevention community. I must, therefore, conclude that this community does not speak with one voice--a fact which is not surprising. The problem, however, is that it leaves us in the middle, with no way to satisfy everyone!

I welcome your advice and hope you will continue to offer it.

Sincerely yours,

Jude Lenfant, M.D.  
Director

*RL - Interesting  
"baffled & distressed" lack  
of insight. JS*