

From Alessandro Menotti

To Dr Henry Blackburn

Minneapolis August 7 1995

CONFIDENTIAL

Menotti memo.

Dear Henry :

this is a brief report on my activity, at more than half way of my stay (I shall leave on September 14).

POLICY AND ORGANIZATION

- In June the **Annual Report** of ongoing activities and **Analysis Proposals** has been distributed to the P.I.s.. I had already reactions from Prof Keys and Martti Karvonen.

- The **liason role** with the Oxford Meta-Analysis Center has continued. For the Second Cycle, the Finnish and the Dutch will provide their data by themselves. I was charged to take care of data from Greece, Japan, Croatia and Italy. No news from Serbia. The US Rairlod cohort is not considered for the program.

*Lawo 7433
Norman*

ANALYSES AND PAPERS (using nicknames)

- The **first stroke paper** has been sleeping from December 1994 to June 1995. Then, after the latest review , David imposed to himself, Rose, Mahesh Desphande and myself, a huge amount of extra-work because he did not believe the conclusion reached with my analysis on the negligible role of risk factors- other than blood pressure- on stroke mortality prediction. After more than one month eventually he became convinced that I was right, but the paper is sitting in his computer in a version I never really saw. He said that he hopes to submit it to a journal before my departure !!

My feeling is to have wasted energies and time.

- The ms on **paradox** has been distributed to the P.I.s after your latest revision. Prof Keys answered by letter. He made compliments but he does not see a reason why I should be an Author. Therefore he be simply acknowledged.

Following your suggestion I asked David to read the ms. At the beginning his reaction was rather cool and he provided me a couple of marginal suggestions. Then he started to come in every day to ask me how it proceeds and finally he asked me to be involved. Most of his comments cover problems already considered and described in the ms.

I would like to submit it to a journal as soon as I will be able to incorporate the suggestions from the P.I.s.

I would not like to wait another year, also for this paper, before having it completed.

- You shall find here a second draft of the ms on **disease prognosis**, already reviewed by you in its first edition. After your revision I would like to send it to the P.I.s. Could you suggest me a journal ?

- You shall find here also the ms of a paper on **population cholesterol change and CHD**. I apologize for the still hand written Tables.

David is aware that I have been long working on this and he looks interested. Again I am fearing long delays which are incompatible with my schedule and plans.

In any case after your review, also this will be sent to the P.I.s.

- A ms on predictive power of **spirometric measurements** on total mortality is in progress and I shall provide you a draft in about 10 days.

A supplement of analysis is planned for September and a final review of text is planned for October with Andy Dontas, who is particularly interested in the subject. He shall come to visit me in Rome for the purpose.

- The **ECG analysis** seems now hopeless.

After the satisfactory meeting of last Wednesday, I started immediately the new analysis following the agreed suggestions.

However in the next two days David came in to request changes, twice for the classification of end-points and two or three times for ECG classification and combination of abnormalities.

This means that each step of analysis simply becomes the trigger for new ideas, whose meaning I not always understand, and for possible relatively minor side-products, moving out from the mainstream we decided.

At the moment I am completely confused and I do not see the reason for preparing further tabulations to be extracted from complex print-outs whose use could suddenly vanish following the next new idea.

If things are continuing this way, final data for writing the first paper will not be available before my departure. Afterwards everything will stop for the next 6 or 9 months.

- The analysis on **cholesterol and blood pressure changes vs CHD mortality** was planned and started last year with David. Now all depends now from his present interest and time availability. I cannot make any guess.

Your wise advice on the open problems is welcome.

Yours


Alessandro Menotti

Hope to see you before Wednesday ECB meeting!