

AAA
NATIONAL
Enquirer Scan + reference
OD GSK
M3.

June 8, 1976

Ms. Dawn Brian
American Heart Association
7320 Greenville Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75231

Dear Dawn:

Experience with science reporting of the National Enquirer has been so poor that I wonder whether you might want to consider a warning release to all the AHA community. It may or may not be good policy, but I believe that many investigators and executives are insufficiently aware of the stupidity, fraudulence, distortion and sensationalism of that particular sheet. Their latest distortion has to do with the automated ECG program of Dr. Kornreich of Belgium. They have pretty well sensationalized the issue and obviously misquoted John Holt of the University of Alabama concerning its significance.

Obviously there is little way that Dr. Kornreich could have been aware of the general character of that publication when he granted an interview. However, I have long ago advised my staff here at the University of Minnesota to politely decline any interviews with the Enquirer. I believe it should be quite possible for us or you to document their faulty reporting if necessary, and that the level of error and distortion, as well as its huge circulation, are sufficient that a warning from the Heart Association might be appropriate.

The fact that Kornreich's credentials as a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association Council on Epidemiology were used in the enclosed foolishness should be distressing to both of those organizations. It is an embarrassment to the scientific community.

Sincerely,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.

HB:mk
cc: Dr. Rautaharju
Dr. Kornreich