

Inter-Society Commission for Heart Disease Resources

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CONF.

I.T.T. Higgins, M.D.
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Dear Dr. Higgins:

I am writing to express my grateful appreciation for your very thoughtful and penetrating critiques of the Commission's statements on prevention. I do not know Dr. Blackburn's instructions, but in light of these provocative and helpful reviews, I hope they included study and comment on all of the Commission's prevention reports.

The Commission will have completed over 30 reports when it finishes its work in December 1972. As with any effort of this kind, the results, I suppose, are something of a mixed bag. On balance, I'm afraid the prevention reports (with the exception of the atherosclerosis and rheumatic fever statements) are the weakest of the lot. In part, this results from the fact that they were the first statements developed by each study group before we had established our procedure of having all manuscripts reviewed by outside consultants prior to publication. But their weakness may also represent an error in judgment (at least in certain instances) regarding authorship. Again, with the exception of the atherosclerosis and rheumatic fever statements the prevention reports were developed by practicing clinicians, i.e., men whose knowledge and experience is not directly related to the literature of preventive medicine.

Plans are now being formulated for the regular review and updating of all of the Commission's reports. My recommendation will be to assign first priority to reviewing the prevention statements. When we begin this task, your critiques will be most helpful indeed.

Sincerely yours,

DONALD T. FREDRICKSON, M.D.

DTF:im

cc: Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Richard E. Hurley, M.D.
Mr. Morton Robins