



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY  
1230 YORK AVENUE · NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021

To Sam

July 10, 1979

FATS -  
Gen. Assembly

Pros/cons  
of Gotthard's  
Round Table


Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. G. Schettler  
Klinikum der Universität Heidelberg  
Medizinische Klinik  
Bergheimer Str. 58  
6900 Heidelberg 1  
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Dear Gotthard:

I do not agree with you that your Round Table should  
"lead to certain recommendations for physicians as well as  
the concerned laymen". I shall attempt to defend this viewpoint  
in the course of my 30-minute report. As my questions (attached)  
suggest, one's willingness to give recommendations to the  
public is an individual matter that is based on his reading  
of the history of medical mistakes, on his eagerness to  
"do something", and on his skepticism over the wisdom of  
extrapolating epidemiologic and animal data to the prevention  
of diseases that are as inadequately understood as atherosclerosis,  
diabetes and hypertension.

I append a few questions for your thoughts.

Sincerely yours,

  
E. H. Ahrens, Jr., M.D.

EHA:BW