17th February, 1958.

Dear Professor Friberg,

Thank you for your letter of February 15th which I have just read.

It occurred to me some time ago that the studies in smoking and lung cancer carried out in England and the United States had made a serious omission in not even considering the possibility that the smoking classes (non-smokers, cigarette-smokers, pipe-smokers, etc.), which are self-chosen, may be differentiated genetically, and that this may be the principal cause of such differences as are observable in the incidence of cancer of the lung.

I suggested, and Luca Cavalli-Sforza has undertaken in Italy, a twin study of which it appears you have received a draft questionnaire, perhaps in English, to see if by this path differentiation could be demonstrated.

In this I was concerned to show that human genetics is not so dead a subject that it can be ignored in medical research merely because many physicians have learned nothing about it.

It is indeed good to learn that you have made a start at Lund with about 90 pairs of twins. I believe that in the end larger numbers will be needed, but that any start is valuable both in exploring difficulties and in setting an example which
may be followed in other countries, for in a contentious subject it is certain that confirmation from other lands will be of real importance.

I believe we may assume that smoking habits, so far as these depend on the personal temperament, could be stabilized generally at about 35 years of age, and this might give a higher yield of living twins than if the lower limit were set at 50.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,