
Dear Todd,

You may recall I had in mind some months ago an enquiry, supplementary to twin studies, from another angle. Of course I expect and hope that these twin studies will continue so as to leave "no loop-hole for escape", as Dr. McCurdy puts it, from the view that the smoking classes are differentiated genotypically to a degree that is easily detected even in small samples.

My second string was to get the numbers of the order of 5,000 citizens of some suitable country with adequate biological facilities, classified in respect of other smoking habits, or perhaps select any two or three groups for such habits and tested in as many blood groups as testing fluids are available for. I believe something like twenty tests could be done of each blood, and that a few auxiliary tests, e.g. on the saliva and tasting capacity can be run in without over-burdening the programme. This necessitates a well equipped medical centre, and the cooperation will necessarily be for explanation of ideas, suggesting that with first class authority, and individual aid they can make available.

Of course 25,000 dollars is a good deal to think about. However I was discussing with Dr. Leopold Martin, Secretary of the Belgium
Bio-erstic Society, who is a competent physician, who knows all the people in Brussels hospitals. He got me to explain the idea to Dr. Hubinant and they became rather enthusiastic and would, I believe, work at it energetically,

I told them that in my view your committee, after satisfying itself as to the qualifications and scientific repute of the body to which the grant is made should take no part in the research beyond approving a general programme, and that I thought a small committee of Belgians, including perhaps officers of the National Academy, and receive, in instalments, with perfect freedom to allocate them within the general plan, to the best interest of the improvement of natural knowledge.

I think you will approve of this stipulation as it is important that the finances, whatever they may be, should not be impugned through the fact that your companies are indeed interested in selling tobacco.

If and when you are in a position to give me the green light, I will send a copy of this letter to Leopold Martin with the suggestion that he and I should take further steps towards drawing up a general plan of research. I suspect, of course, that the wide spectrum of simultaneous blood grouping may be appreciably different in non-smokers as compared with e.g. cigarette smokers. If this is a fact, the numbers needed to bring
it out demonstrably, which, of course, at present is unknown, and we must be guided by the number of donors whom it would be possible to locate and test in a reasonable time.

Sincerely yours,

I am sending this in as once, though it has been horribly scrambled since I dictated it.