

May 9, 1977

Stanley B. Gross, Ph.D.
9036 Jeffery Road
Great Falls, Virginia 22066

Dear Stan:

During the past several weeks and months, I have been thinking my way carefully into the consideration of the situation presented by my having failed to get together, with the help of various persons, a satisfactory presentation of an entire report on the study of a series of human subjects to whom lead had been administered. I believe I am now clear as to the necessities in this matter, and it is the purpose of this letter to state the case as I see it.

Let me begin by telling you that the records of the observations and (in some instances) the thoughts of the physicians, whom I engaged to make independent observations on the status of the persons engaged as subjects to whom lead was to be given, have been found.

Now, with the necessary information (data) at hand, on all phases of the experimental program, I have considered most carefully what I must contribute to the report of the work; if I can manage to do it. Only slowly, largely because of my disabilities, have I been able to see, fairly clearly, what my responsibilities are, and only because of my own slowness in this regard, do I find myself visualizing your part as well as my own in this matter in a realistic manner. I shall tell you in the paragraphs below the conclusions to which I have come as to our respective contributions to this joint project. First let me say, however, that I see no obstacle to your completing of your work shortly, so as to get back to your own career.

What I propose to do now for some months, no doubt, is represented in the following statements. This material can, of course, be put into a separate report from yours but it would be published most appropriately with yours. This, of course, is subject to your attitude toward the final result.

1. I, alone, am in position to state fully my purposes in initiating this experimental program. As a matter of fact, certain purposes developed out of the procedure as it developed.

2. I, alone, can speak appropriately, of the choices of the human subjects initially, and as the work progressed. Such choices were not made in an haphazard manner, and should not appear to have been. Matters of age, racial background, physical status, sex, previous history of employment, and other experiences should be referred to briefly. The relationship of the subject to the departmental staff, including myself, their apparent reliability, and their willingness to follow instructions faithfully, are all highly important matters.

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3. The data provided by the physicians as to the physical characteristics of each subject initially and from time to time, and the variations therein over months or years, as the case might be, are much too voluminous and too varied in their physiological and clinical significance to record in detail, in my opinion. Thus it will be necessary for me to summarize these findings and their significance. This is a much tougher job than I would have supposed before seeing the records, but I feel sure that I can do it acceptably by taking my time. It is for this reason, in part, that I am now talking frankly to you, and you must not be required to wait for my completion of my contribution to the report or joint reports.

In the association of my contribution with yours to this report (if this is to be done in that manner) I shall have to review, and edit your contribution and fit my own to yours to make a complete, satisfactory publication.

This is a big job which will require a great deal of effort for me. However, I believe, now, as I did not previously, that in time I can do it. I shall not be satisfied to do less than a very good job of it, for your sake as well as mine, and with primary regard to the reader.

There is, I believe, no point in your continuing to work at this job,, after you have satisfied yourself that the primary data within your own province have been dealt with satisfactorily. I am not, in any sense, altering your work or your general handling of quantitative data. As for my part in this, I consider it to be the non-quantitative, medical and physiological phenomena. I also think that the less you concern yourself with these matters (which are difficult to define more specifically), the less chance there will be for ambiguity in our joint efforts.

Do not hesitate to let me know what you think of my ideas as expressed in this letter, and how they may (or will) influence your own thinking, as well as your future career. You should feel free also to make any proposals for our joint accomplishment of this large task.

With all best regards,

Yours faithfully,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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