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December 15, 1969

Max Miller, M.D.  
Professor of Medicine  
University Hospitals of Cleveland  
2065 Adelbert Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dr. Miller:

Last August we discussed by telephone my concern over the public and medical confusion resulting from public disclosure of UGDP "conclusions" without presentation of the supporting study data which would allow detailed analysis and discussion. As your group knows well we have not only admired and respected UGDP efforts to accomplish this complicated and difficult task but we have tried hard to assist your efforts over the past ten years by supplying clinical materials, suggestions, comments, and by respecting your wishes for strict confidentiality of your data until it is published.

It is therefore particularly disconcerting to hear that some of the UGDP members are delivering formal presentations and summaries of your study around the country without publication of supporting data for analysis and critique. This is most clearly different than your plans for detailed publication expressed to me last August, and again recently in the December 12, 1969 issue of Medical World News. More important, I sincerely believe that this piecemeal presentation based upon data to be contained in a future publication is not in the best interest of either the diabetic population or the medical profession to which we both have deep commitments.

As you know our analysis of the UGDP data leads us to the opinion that for a host of study design and analysis problems no specific conclusions can be drawn. The study has however pointed out several areas that need further study, but is not able to answer with certainty these questions. Our analysis has been essentially confirmed by two independent, well known and respected medical epidemiology consultants. Your findings also stand in disagreement with the previously published clinical studies of Keene and Jarret of London, and Marble and Balodimos of the Joslin Clinic.

In short genuine differences of opinion and analysis exist regarding this important medical question. We sincerely believe that such problems requiring medical interpretation should be debated within the medical community with

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access to all facts and data available. To date we have waited as you suggested last August for your group to publish its findings for medical review. If however the present trend of repeated informal verbal presentations, not supported by published data continues, we may be compelled to abandon the confidentiality of your data and respond to the questions that these presentations are generating.

Sincerely,



Alan B. Varley, M.D.

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cc: UGDF Committee