



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

August 27, 1973

Assistant Vice-Chancellor Albert A. Barber
Office of the Chancellor
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California 90024

Dear Vice-Chancellor Barber:

On behalf of the Division of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, I would like to propose Dr. James Eugene Enstrom for consideration for the Celeste Durand Rogers Postdoctoral Fellowship Award in cancer research. Although only twenty-nine years old Dr. Enstrom has completed his Ph.D. in physics and has already published nine articles in well-known journals of physics, in addition to many technical reports for the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, Stanford University, R & D Associates, and the Rand Corporation. These many references and the comments of Drs. Libby and Jones underscore that Dr. Enstrom is an energetic, inquiring scientist committed to producing quality research.

Dr. Enstrom has been the recipient of awards for academic standing and physics at the Harvey Mudd College and is currently a consulting physicist to the Rand Corporation in Santa Monica and R & D Associates, also in Santa Monica, as well as being a research physicist at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory of the University of California at Berkeley.

Recently, Dr. Enstrom has become interested in the epidemiology of cancer. He has written a paper on cancer mortality and alcohol-tobacco consumption which correlates, on a state by state basis, age-adjusted cancer death rates and per capita consumption of alcohol and tobacco in the United States. From this study he has evolved a proposal for a study of cancer among Mormons. Dr. Enstrom has shown a great deal of epidemiologic insight by selecting the Mormon population in which to study the role of alcohol, tobacco and dietary factors on the risk of acquiring cancer. He is familiar with the study which has been recently funded by the National Cancer Institute of Cancer among Seventh-Day Adventists and has consulted with Dr. Roland Philips, the principal investigator on the study of Cancer among Seventh-Day Adventists. In addition to realizing the unique opportunity of assessing relationships of dietetic factors to cancer of various sites, Dr. Enstrom was quick to realize the increased significance which would be gained by comparing the Mormon population with the Seventh-Day Adventists population as well as a general population. Dr. Enstrom has demonstrated an understanding of the problems associated with dealing with large population groups by selecting as his control the Alameda County population. This population has been well-demonstrated by Breslow and others to have an excellent compliance.

The potential significance of the study proposed by Dr. Enstrom has been recognized by the American Cancer Society which has given Dr. Enstrom an award through the

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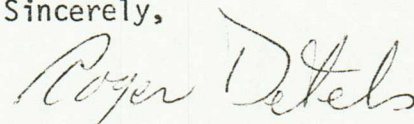
Berkeley Campus Institutional Research Grant Committee to assist in the development of the study of cancer among Mormons. Such eminent cancer epidemiologists as Warren Winkelstein, Hardin B. Jones, John E. Dunn, Jr., Phillip Buell, Lester Breslow, Sir Richard Doll, and Abraham L. Lilienfeld have expressed interest in the project. Thus, it is apparent that Dr. Enstrom has the potential to make a significant contribution to the epidemiology of cancer.

The Division of Epidemiology feels that Dr. Enstrom could make a strong contribution to the interests of the Division and of the Center for the Health Sciences as well. Dr. Elizabeth Stern, an established researcher in the relationship of hormones and cancer, is already in the Division of Epidemiology. The addition of Dr. Enstrom to the Division of Epidemiology would increase the ability of the Division to act as a resource and core for the proposed Cancer Center.

While it is apparent from the above that Dr. Enstrom would make a strong contribution to the Division of Epidemiology, the Division of Epidemiology could also provide a strong resource to Dr. Enstrom. Dr. Enstrom has demonstrated his familiarity with the field of epidemiology but he has had no formal training or degrees in the area. We would propose during Dr. Enstrom's stay to provide him with the opportunity for didactic training in the discipline of epidemiology. The Division of Epidemiology has a well-established laboratory of population studies including data on mortality for the State of California and census tapes for the entire state. This Health Information Systems Research Laboratory has developed expertise in the handling of data contained in the census and mortality tapes which will be of importance to Dr. Enstrom in developing analyses of morbidity and mortality data from the three populations with which he will be working.

In summary, I feel that Dr. Enstrom has demonstrated his dedication to science and his ability to synthesize his findings into meaningful publications. He has demonstrated an unusual initiative in recognizing a problem in a different field and having the resourcefulness to develop a significant proposal to study that problem. He has also demonstrated his willingness to seek out expertise from people in the field and his determination to see a project through. The Division of Epidemiology feels that Dr. Enstrom can make a strong contribution to the Division of Epidemiology and the Center for the Health Sciences, and that the Division and the Center for the Health Sciences can make a strong contribution to the excellent proposal that Dr. Enstrom has developed. Lastly, I feel that it is important to encourage bright, aggressive, young individuals such as Dr. Enstrom to pursue a career in cancer epidemiology.

Sincerely,



Roger Detels, M.D.
Associate Professor and Head
Division of Epidemiology

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