

ITL

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RET/LAP/46P

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~~Dr. P. J. Dunn,~~
Imperial Tobacco Limited,
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Dear Pat,

Cohort Analysis - Canadian Data

I hope you had an enjoyable visit to Ireland and an interesting course at Chelwood, and I hope that not too much work accumulated.

We are continuing with our work on cohort analysis and I spoke with Bob Wade on his retirement visit on the principle of whether or not there were any independent epidemiologists in Canada who might be interested in cohort analysis. Bob may well mention this to Stewart or to you and I thought it might be helpful if I elaborated further.

Without going into all the mathematical details of cohort analysis the results from Canada and from certain other countries show quite a marked period effect not seen in the UK data. The simplest explanation of this period effect is that doctors have been steadily increasing, on an almost arbitrary basis, their diagnoses of lung cancer (since the period effect increases over the period we can study, typically 1950-1980). Only Osmond and Gardner's method of analysis allows for this change in standards and the differences between allowing for it/not allowing for it are quite dramatic and demonstrate the utility of this kind of epidemiological analysis. The processes by which some of these ideas can be ventilated are currently under preliminary consideration and I would like to know if you can think of anybody in Canada who might be interested enough to say something positive if his attention was drawn to the method of analysis.

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I am not asking you to make an approach at this stage and obviously a lot will depend on Peter Lee's stance on publication. One possible view is that he might at some stage like to know that there might be moral—support elsewhere in view of the potential controversy surrounding the results and their implications. Any way if you have any thought I would be grateful for them.

On a different matter I would appreciate it if you could let me know whether the CTMC are still in any way associated with Professor Jim Hogg in Vancouver, as I am interested in current work on chronic obstructive lung disease etc.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,



R. E. THORNTON

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