



DEL MAR AVIONICS

DYNAMIC INSTRUMENTATION

1601 ALTON AVENUE AT RED HILL

• IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92714 •

TELEPHONE (714) 549-1500

CABLE • DELMARENG

TELEX • 68-5621

Adm. 282-81
September 2, 1981

Dr. William E. Thornton
701 Coward's Creek Road
Friendswood, Texas 77546

Dear Bill:

By this weekend, Ray Cherry will have some records of recording EEG on the 445 recorder, using the lash-up we discussed with you. We will let you know the results. It is certainly a nuisance to have to cement the electrodes into place (in with the hair) and to use acetone to remove them, but it is obvious that motion artifacts are a potential problem and could be overpowering if we fail to establish fixation.

Between his main assignments, Dave Squires has been overseeing the improvement of the data reduction program on the 1981 to provide the blood pressure hourly averages on the write-out, provide the number and percent of readings above 140 systolic and above 95 diastolic, identify these two plateaus on the charts and give program access to a revision of the plateaus to meet the different European standards. Does this meet your entire idea of 1981 improvement at this time?

I sent you a copy of David Albert's letter in which he proposed some ECG rate instrumentation. When you can, please give me your answer. I am also sending full data on Damon Smith's proposal.

You will recall that Damon Smith called me in June regarding his project and the need for assistance. I indicated that I would consider the request and he forwarded detail information. Doctors Craige and Sheps also forwarded letters of explanation. I told you about this during your visit here on June 8 and 9. In July Damon Smith called and asked for a decision. I told him that I could not enter into any program at this time to furnish stress test equipment and funds for the program and I could not issue \$10,000 to him as a fee for the purchase of exclusive rights to his proclaimed invention of an accelerometer feature added to an ECG clip. The reason I gave was that until the clinical value of this technique had received recognition by practicing physicians, sales would be non-rewarding and even then the feature could not command any sizable price, so funds spent now would be hard to justify from a purely commercial standpoint. I indicated that my interest in his project would continue as a non-participating observer of the progress of the proposed technique.

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Page 2

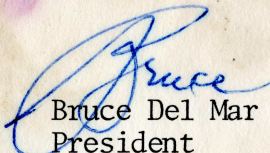
I discussed the project proposal and their request with Dr. Ellestad (Damon Smith had indicated to me previously that such a discussion was O.K.). Myrvin said he believes that the N.I.H. study should be completed and results studied before any plans should be formulated to use the technique or guess its future. He compared this with two other techniques. One was body resistance variation between a skin electrode on the chest and one in the middle of the back. The other was magneto cardiography. He continues to think of these as techniques of interest but not first-order requirements for today's diagnosis. Obviously, the N.I.H. study is a multi-year project and results may be slow in getting into publication - perhaps two to four years.

I owe these people at the University of North Carolina a note of explanation and thanks. After the last talk with Damon Smith on the phone, I am sure he will be trying elsewhere to interest a manufacturer in what he offered here. Before I prepare a written response, please report if you agree with Myrv Ellestad to sit this one out.

I am forwarding a copy of my file for your review. Please return it with your answer at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

DEL MAR AVIONICS


Bruce Del Mar
President

BDM:dw

Enclosures: Copy of Letter from Damon Smith dated June 11, 1981 (with attachments)
Copy of letter from David S. Sheps, M.D. dated June 12, 1981
Copy of letter from Ernest Craige, M.D. dated June 12, 1981 (with attachment)