

December 15, 1961

Dr. Josef Brosek  
 Department of Psychology  
 Lehigh University  
 Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Dear Josef:

I am delighted to hear you are contemplating another conference on body composition, this time emphasizing results rather than means. I am also beginning to suspect your psyche must possess a touch of masochism, judging by the time, labor, and nervous energy you expended on the last meeting.

In answer to your question, yes, I would be delighted to serve as chairman of the Methodological Section. Whether or not I can do so depends on when you plan to hold the meeting. In the Spring of 1963 I may be in Nepal pursuing my own form of masochism on Mt. Everest.

If the meeting is held in the "near" future, I will have nothing significant to report. Perhaps in nine months I will.

I agree that home emphasis should be placed on K-40 techniques and results. Subjects for discussion ought to include K-40 counting with crystal and liquid scintillation counters, exchangeable potassium measured with K-42, and most important of all, a thorough discussion of what these measurements seem to mean in terms of gross body composition.

As for participants, a few names that come immediately to mind are listed below. If you want me to give more thought to a list of candidates, let me know.

Total K (K-40)	C. E. Miller	Argonne
Exch. K (K-42)	Wright Longham Jerome Adelman	Los Alamos
Human Studies	H. I. Berlin I. S. Edelman U. P. Petersen J. V. G. A. Durnin J. M. Tanner A. Behnke F. Moore H. Ljunggren T. H. Allen G. T. Lesser	N.C.I. U. G. Med. Denmark Glasgow London San Francisco Copenhagen Denver N. Y. U.

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Animal Studies -

G. Pitts  
M. Kleiber

U. Virginia  
U. C., Davis

This is not a very substantial nor selective list, but with a little more time to think about it, perhaps I can submit a more comprehensive list of names.

One last thought occurs to me. Would this be a proper occasion to discuss and perhaps formulate recommendations for uniform procedures for "somatolytic" techniques? I should think it would also be useful to have a panel discussion on the significance and validity of results obtained by various somatolytic methods with emphasis on achieving a little critical insight rather than "selling."

In the event we fail to do so through the normal channel of sending Christmas cards, let me wish you a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

William Siri

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