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A major teaching hospital
of Harvard Medical School

Sven Paulin, M.D., Ph.D.

Miriam H. Stoneman
*Distinguished Professor
of Radiology
Harvard Medical School*

Dear Herb:

August 12, 2010

I send this letter to you in the hope that it reaches you on the Vineyard on your big birthday, Monday 16. I plan to call you and hope to reach you so that I can give you directly my best personal wishes.

I clearly remember the day 40 years ago, when I took my last family vacation in Göteborg and had called your secretary who gave me your slightly secret telephone number to Chilmark and I was able to reach you on your 50ies birthday!

Only 40 years have passed since that day!. To me it is almost like yesterday.

It is with the greatest respect that I think of you and want to extend my deepest gratitude for all you friendship, professional and personal advise and support you have given to. My wife Birgit and all our four children join me and wish you and Marilyn the very best. A few weeks ago I found in my old papers the written manuscript that I used for my contribution to your goodbye party and symposium when you left the Brigham and the Harvard Medical School in 1984 so to return to your sunny Palo Alto and Stanford University. I enjoyed re-reading my manuscript in particular as it included many personal anecdotes that describe our contacts in both Europe and North America and practically span over half a century. I also think of the many visits I had made to you after your return to California and remember well the visit with my youngest daughter Viveca when we explored the College situation in the West and, of course, later on the multiple visits with my daughter Helena when she worked at Apple for nearly 5 years and bought a small house at Stanford Avenue.

Herb, many thanks for being my professional mentor!

Recently, just about 6 month ago, I called my good friend Dr. Ed Varnauskas on his 87th birthday. When I asked him "How are you?" he shocked me with his laconic response "What a dumb question!"

In the hope that you have preserved a much more positive attitude -- is your tennis still going strong?!-- I wish you and Marilyn and your children to celebrate a wonderful birthday. Please expect my telephone call on Monday

Sincerely Yours

Sven