Madrid
October 1992

A TRIBUTE TO PDAY

In far off Buenos Aires, when this Congress was last held
With Jack Strong as president, and knowledge was propelled
At the president's own symposium on atherosclerosis
I read a poem then saying, "Jack is the mostest."

My views haven't changed, so I intend today
To start my talk in rhyme again, this time to say
That one good reason we're all still learning more
Is Jack's continued effort to bring results to the fore.

The Pathobiological Determinants of Atherosclerosis in Youth
Is the latest organized effort to reveal additional truth
Of how plaques develop and how they progress
This poem describes how PDAY developed and why it is the best.

Well, first of all the scientists are exceptionally first rate
And they've explored long and hard, since that very first date
In 1984 when the 14 center grants got approved
And the last obstacles to starting were at last removed.

But as a matter of fact it was more than a decade before
That McGill, Jack Strong, and Wissler first began to pour
Their energies and experience into the long range plan
Of how to make this study the best since time began.

They started with the premise that this research should yield
Quantitative data unspoiled, so they appealed
By the biases of chronic disease that mar so many
So they'd use sudden death forensic cases or they'd not use any.

The protocol was strict and the sampling plan so wise
That the data gave comparisons of the lesions' size
Between the "lesion prone" and the "resistant" sides,
Between standardized proximal and distal parts besides.

Risk factors are then measured at the top notch LSU
By Jack Strong's methods as practiced by his crew
To quantitate the fats in arteries and in blood
Also smoking, high blood pressure, glycohemoglobin include.

But the real enduring secret of PDAY's great success
Is the sustained interest and the efforts of the rest
Of the 100 or more scientists and staff
At those 14 centers working on PDAY's behalf.

The more than 2600 cases we've collected to this date
Make up more than 148,000 samples whose fate
Both arteries as well as blood end tissues are then
Preserved, processed, and distributed throughout the land.

Some are measured chemically and some made into slides
Many are grossly, microscopically, and morphometrically analyzed
At Chicago at present as you will all very soon see
We count cells and quantitate Immunohistochemistry.

So now in Madrid in 1992,
Just 500 years from 1492,
Our work makes it clear, when the lumen isn't round,
Then we can learn much, discoveries abound!

From studying young arteries which aren't very pretty,
We are reporting them in this beautiful city.
Jack gave you some; I'll describe several more,
Then Abel leads us to the New World's shore!

Thanks for your attention to my light-hearted piece--
Giving you some background about the contents of my speech!
I hope this little ditty will be considered witty.
Please give me your pity and don't subtract from my allotted time one
little itty-bitty.

Bob Wissler
21 Oct, '92