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Dear Sir:

In their editorial [1] Dr. Lundbaek and his colleagues have published, for the first time, a subset of the data from the NIH study concerning muscle capillary basement membrane thickening in Pima Indian diabetics, the nondiabetic offspring of two non-diabetic parents, and the non-diabetic offspring of two diabetic parents, which were presented at the 1976 Clinical Research Meetings [2].

Following a brief discussion of these data, they quote out of context, a statement made by Siperstein [3] that "In summary data from this (Siperstein's) laboratory and from the National Institutes of Health cooperative study would support the conclusion that diabetic microangiopathy does not result from the hyperglycemia or the hypoinsulinemia of diabetes mellitus." This statement represents Dr. *Siperstein's* interpretation of his own and these preliminary data. Lundbaek and his colleagues then go on to state that "the endorsing of such a statement and all of its implications by the NIH is – somewhat surprising." In addition to being surprising, this statement is erroneous, since no endorsement of this conclusion has ever been made by the National Institutes of Health. In the subsequent editorial by Siperstein et al. [4], some additional results are cited, which suggest contrary conclusions to those suggested by Lundbaek, illustrating a possible alternative interpretation, as well as illustrating the complexity of analyzing such data. In both editorials the numerical data are correct, and are based on the same, but incomplete results. Although data acquisition is now com-

plete, analysis of the NIH study is still in progress. Thus any final interpretations or conclusions preceding publication of the complete analysis are premature. Thus, in the meantime the question of whether or not the Pima Indian muscle capillary membrane data are sufficient and adequate to refute or support the hypothesis espoused by Lundbaek and others, or the alternate, as restated by Siperstein, cannot be judged, since only preliminary (and incomplete) evidence has yet been presented.

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