U.S. Marine Hospital - Balto.
October 25, 1948

Dear Dr. Jeghers,

The prints are coming over under separate cover. They are only fair as might be expected from the fact that the Harrisburg prints were made from Kodachromes. They do demonstrate how minimal the pigmentation may be. The pigmentation inside the mouth in the Harrisburg cases was rather more impressive than that of the lips.

I have run across another (actually 3 more) unmistakeable case of The Syndrome in the literature — D.B.E. Foster — "Adenocarcinoma of the Small Intestine in Father and Daughter" — Brit. Med. Jour. 1: 78-79 - July 15, 1944. Foster describes the cases of a 43 year old coppersmith and his 16 yr old daughter, both of whom presented themselves to the Llandough Hospital, Cardiff, Wales, ~~in a 3~~ within 3 years of each other, with intussusception. In each case a single polyp was found at the head of the intussusceptens. He does not state with what diligence others were sought. In both cases the sections were believed to show a "low degree of malignancy" — hence, the title of the report.

He goes further to say: "It was noted that both patients presented a diffuse (?) brownish pigmentation of the lips and face. On investigating the family history it transpired that the father's brother showed similar pigmentation, and he had been a patient in this hospital in 1935 complaining of attacks of abdominal pain with passage of blood and mucus per rectum."

From what little perusal of the literature I have had a chance to do I certainly have gained the same impression you have — that familial adenomatosis of the small intestine is a quite unusual occurrence. This certainly narrows down, and increases the diagnostic specificity of, the pigmentation.

The familial polyposis of the colon has been discussed at length by Lockhard-Mummery, Dukes, McKenney, Jüngling, Pugh and Nesselrod, Pfeiffer and Patterson (I have the references). I have been through their papers. They make no mention of the small intestinal type of the disease.

There are isolated reports of adenomatosis of the small intestine in which ~~the~~ a familial factor was not recognized and the pigmentation not described. Such reports are:

(1) Thorel: "A Case of Intestinal Polyposis with Carcinoma of the ileum" — Münchener med. Wochenschrift 52: 2062 (1905)
(Case of 20 yr. old male who presented with intussusception. The ileum contained 20 polyps.)

(2) Zachary Cope: "Multiple Papillomatosis of the Small Intestine Causing Recurrent Intussusception in an Adult" 9: 558-559 1922 — British Journal of Surgery.
(Case of 21 yr. old male — no pigmentation described, but very sketchy report dealing mainly with technical methods used to reduce the intussusceptions.)

I have reviewed in part at least the literature on carcinoma of the small intestines. Ewing (Neoplastic Diseases, p. 722) states it comprises about 3% of carcinoma of the entire GI tract. Others put the figure very much lower, e.g. the figure of 0.47% arrived at by Mayo and Nethrour, S.G. and O., 65: 303, 1937. There have been a few reports of "multiple primary carcinomas" of the small intestine. An early report was: C. H. Bunting "Multiple Carcinoma of the Ileum" Bull. J. H. H. 15: 389 - 1904. (2 autopsy cases - essentially no clinical material given). Raiford "Tumors of the Small Intestine" Archives of Surgery, 25: 122-177, 321-350, 1932, gives a fairly good review of the subject in its broadest aspect based on 88 cases. Of the 88, seven had benign adenomata - duodenum 4, jejunum 1, ileum 2. From the report it is hard to determine how many of the cases were multiple. He does not refer to a familial element. He merely states: "They usually occur singly but may be multiple."

What would you think of including another table listing the cases, proven, probable, and possible, in the literature?

I wrote out my idea of a summary.

Sincerely,

Victor A. McKusick

Table III
Cases of the Syndrome in the Literature

I Proven cases	
1. Peutz[1,2]	7
2. Touraine and Cowder[3] (only rectal polyps)	1
3. Foster[4] ~~(pigmentation only described)~~	2
II Probable cases	
1. Hutchinson's twin[5,6] (cf. text)	1
2. Foster[4]	2
III Possible cases	
1. Hudelo and Rabut[7]	1
2. Chatelain[8]	1
3. Belote[9]	1
Total	~~15~~ 16