

Lima, October 18, 1954

Capt. Ernest L. Becker, USAF, (MC),
Department of Internal Medicine,
USAF School of Aviation Medicine,
Randolph Field, Texas.

Dear Dr. Becker :

On my return from Morococha, where we have spent about two weeks, I had the pleasure to find your two recent letters, I am glad you had a pleasant trip. We all enjoyed greatly the visit of your group and we also appreciate your assistance and help in so many problems. I hope that you will be able to visit us again and it is my intention to keep in touch with you. Maybe one of these days I will be able to see you again in the States.

The only sad thing about your visit was your bad luck with the dice. Our continuous success was a combination of Harvard training and rather inefficient preparation of a New York man (!). At least this is the opinion of Schilling.

I am ordering a constant infusion pump for Picón so he will be able to continue the investigation on total body water and extracellular fluid. I am deeply interested in the question of body fat and lean body mass from a metabolic point of view.

In regard to your last question on capillary studies, I may inform you that Dr. Valdivia (who has resigned and is actually in Wisconsin) has completed a study of capillaries in relation to muscle area and muscle fibers in two groups of guinea pigs, one native of high altitudes and the other of sea level. He has found a definite absolute and relative increase at high altitudes. I hope to translate this report in the near future and send it to Randolph around November 30, which is the date set for a formal report.

Velásquez is leaving in two or three days. I hope he will behave well in Randolph (in spite of the bad influences from New York).

My wife wants me to thank the nice letter she received from Mrs. Becker. She will write her in the near future. Soon after you left her father died.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Alberto Hurtado