

Lima, June 21, 1956

Dr. E. Lovell Becker,  
Medical College of Virginia,  
Hospital Division,  
1200 East Broad St.,  
Richmond 19, Virginia.

Dear Dr. Becker :

I am glad to acknowledge your letter of June 15. I have read with great interest the work you mention of Dr. James Metcalfe. This deals with a problem we like to study in the best possible way, that is the physiological condition of the newborn at high altitudes. Certain hematological observations have been carried out but their interpretation cannot be complete until we have some information regarding the degree of anoxia. I will be very happy to get in touch with Dr. Metcalfe and study the possibility of his visit to Perú, where every possible facility will be given to him, both in Lima and at high altitudes. Please tell him to write to me. A study of respiratory and other functions may be carried out simultaneously, and I am sure that the data to be obtained would be very valuable. I still plan to be in the States next October but it will be better to have some correspondence with him before. In addition, the good results of the investigation will be certain, taking into account that it will be carried out by Harvard men (I know Dr. Schilling will agree with me).

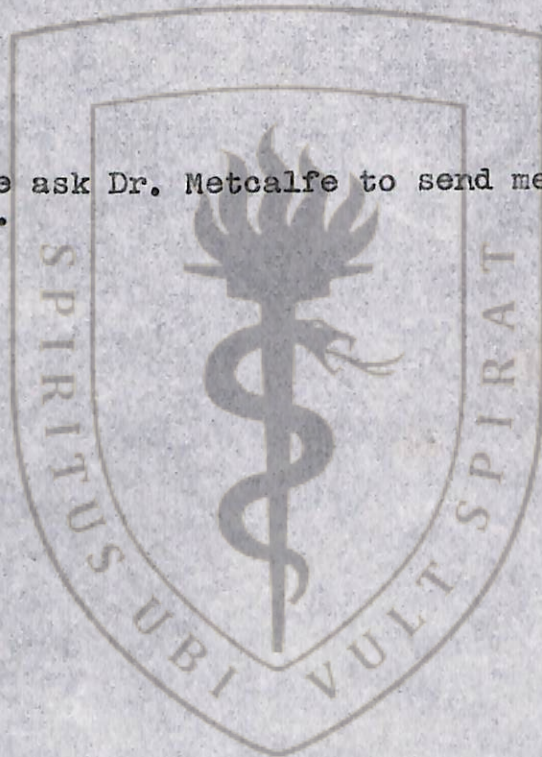
You may be surprised to know that I have been elected Dean of the Medical School. I could not refuse this spontaneous designation because the situation is quite critical in the University, in part due to political reasons and in part also to the pressure of a tremendous number of candidates to be accepted in the Medical School, which would have disastrous effects on medical education. I do not know what will be the end result of this situation but I am determined to do every effort to save the Faculty. My time is now entirely devoted to the School, between the laboratory (which I will never leave) and the new duties. We are now working quite hard, and studies on the tolerance to extreme heights (in the pressure chamber) have been incorporated.

Please give my best regards to your wife. Hoping to see you in the near future and with best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Alberto Hurtado

Please ask Dr. Metcalfe to send me reprints of his publications.



Dr. Compañero