

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE
USAF SCHOOL OF AVIATION MEDICINE
Randolph Field, Texas

6 October 1954

Dr. Alberto Hurtado
Apartado 1116
Lima, Peru

Dear Dr. Hurtado:

After a pleasant trip with Panogra we arrived in Panama at some unholy hour of 1:00 in the morning. We enjoyed the Chilean wine and lobster, at least I did, as you know I always enjoy eating. We got over to the Air Base at Allbrook and fortunately had a two day delay and had an opportunity to see a good deal of Panama. They took us around in a helicopter and we saw all of the sights. It was most delightful. We eventually got back to Mobile and had another two day delay and finally back here to Randolph. Needless to say we miss Peru and all the people in your laboratory very much. It was a very wonderful experience for all of us and one which we will long remember. I feel that the associations as well as the work which we accomplished will be invaluable to us and sincerely hope that we will be able to return before too long.

I can't tell you what a real pleasure and privilege I felt it was to be able to work in your laboratory and to work with you on problems of mutual interest. I sincerely hope that when you visit the States that we will be down here at Randolph and I will have an opportunity to expose you to some of the views of San Antonio. I am not quite sure how I feel about the entire laboratory descending upon me in New York City. For that reason I will have to use an assumed name in the telephone book but for special friends I might be able to make some arrangements. Seriously though, I do hope that you will come down here and we will have a chance to see you. We are all readily planning all sorts of skull duggery for Dr. Velasquez.

I will send you some photographs very shortly that we took in Peru. Some of which I think are very good. This reminds me that if possible I would like very much if you have a photograph of yourself which you would be willing to contribute as I would be most flattered to have a copy for my lab.

Please remember me to Mrs. Hurtado and your family and everyone in the laboratory. It was awfully sweet of your wife to send Peggy the gift and I think she has already written her about it.

We will send you our manuscripts when we get them in proper form. It will take a while to assemble all the data and have it analyzed. We are working on it now. I sincerely hope that Dr. Picon will be able to go ahead with the space studies and complete a series of both extra cellular fluid and total body water both at sea level and at altitude. I will keep in touch with him about this.

We did some more exercise tolerance tests here at Randolph and finally my hematocrit came down to around 55 and since my blood is thinning out a bit I feel a good deal better.

Again allow me to tell you how much I enjoyed knowing you and the people in your laboratory and what a real pleasure it was for me to visit with you all in Peru. I sincerely hope that in future years we will be able to continue our relationship.

Sincerely yours,



ERNEST L. BECKER
Captain, USAF(MC)
Department of Internal Medicine

ELB/bjb

