

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF VIRGINIA

HOSPITAL DIVISION  
1200 EAST BROAD STREET  
RICHMOND 19, VIRGINIA

April 23, 1956

Dr. Alberto Hurtado  
Apartado 1116  
Lima, Peru

Dear Dr. Hurtado:

It has been quite some time since I have heard from you and often have thought of you and the situation there at the Medical School. I am indeed anxious to know how things will work out and have been following the New York papers as to the political situation, and I am praying for the best possible outcome, both for your personal interest and for the interest of your laboratory.

About two weeks ago I had occasion to make a tour for the Department of Defense of the Air Force, Navy, and Army installations, and on this occasion visited at Randolph. This was just prior to the trip of the Research Council to visit your labs. I must confess that I was a bit concerned, but have tremendous confidence in Colonel McGraw's insight into research problems. I have just returned from Atlantic City where I saw Bob Clark and many of the others and they told me that your proposal had been renewed for another year. Needless to say I was delighted. Of course, we all knew that it would be renewed if they only had an opportunity to see your organization. Further, I learned that the Air Force has quite a few of your manuscripts and I am sincerely looking forward to seeing the published data. While in Atlantic City I had occasion to talk with Hermann Rahn and we enjoyed reminiscing about Lima. Further, Dr. Schilling stayed with me in the hotel and we many times thought of the wonderful experiences we had with you, and only hope that in the future we would be able to see you again. I talked with Dr. Pitts and several people in his laboratory and they are all quite pleased with the progress made by Dr. Lozano. As I knew so well, he is a very conscientious and hard working man and they were quite impressed with this. Further, his English has improved markedly, and I feel that he will gain a lot from this year with Dr. Pitts. He is working with Dr. Kessler who was one of my students at the Bellevue and I am sure that he will gain from this association.

While you were here earlier in the year our laboratory was still in the process of being established, but at the present time we are well along and have received a Virginia Heart Association and Air Force contract for our work for the next year. I wondered if you have anyone who would be interested in spending the year working with us. I feel that we can offer the basic methodology and background to renal problems and after such a year anyone could go on to spend a year somewhere else which might be a more profitable situation. For your information, we are planning to study the effects of cobalt produced polycythemia on not only renal function and all of its various ramifications, but also on erythropoietic problems. That is, we hope to

explore red cell masses, red cell survival rates, plasma volumes, cardiac outputs, blood viscosities, as well as, doing complete pathological skeletal surveys. I am quite interested in the mechanism whereby cobalt can produce a polycythemia in dogs. We feel this may well be due to a local bone marrow hypoxia, but of course have no evidence for this at the present time. We would like to extend some of our studies to humans, but this presents certain problems at the present time. I will keep in touch with you about this work, however.

I would greatly appreciate it if you would keep me posted as to the changes which may occur after your election in June. Also, if you come to the States in the near future, I wish you would let me know where you will be and possibly we will get a chance to get together. As you know, you are always more than welcome and we would be delighted to have you visit with us here in Richmond. If this is not possible, I would be very happy to come to Washington or New York to have an opportunity to see you. My very best regards to your family and please remember me to everyone in the laboratory.

Very sincerely,



E. Lovell Becker, M.D.

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