

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS
SEATTLE 5

14 November, 1958

Dr. Alberto Hurtado
The Institute of Andean Biology
Faculty of Medicine
University of San Marcos
Lima, Peru

Dear Dr. Hurtado:

Dr. Robert Clark has informed Dr. Carlson and myself that he has corresponded with you about the possibility of my working at your laboratory for one year starting next June or July. I want to tell you how very glad I am to have this opportunity. I would have written earlier, but I have been until recently on an expedition in Northern Canada studying adaptation to cold in Indians.

My curriculum vitae and the research proposal are enclosed. We have been working on the techniques for limb blood flow measurement which will be used. I have been most impressed by the reports of physical fitness of the Peruvian mountain dwellers, and I am looking forward eagerly to a chance to work with them. I should be most grateful for your comments on the type of work planned, and I should especially like to know if the work would fit into your program.

I am curious about a few details of living in Peru. Dr. Rex Huff and Dr. Knute Berger have been most helpful about answering questions, and they have indicated that my family and I would enjoy it very much. I have tentatively planned to find a place for them in some place like Chosica, at least until my working plans are settled. Have you any suggestions? The whole family is busily studying Spanish. My wife is a pediatrician with public health experience. She is interested in knowing what opportunities there might be for work with the World Health Organization or other public health agencies requiring the services of a physician with experience in maternal and child health work. We are interested in knowing what arrangements might be made for a school for our oldest child, a girl who is now in the first grade. We should be pleased to have her entered in a Spanish-speaking school in the place where we decide to live.

There are also some questions in my mind regarding the experimental arrangements. What are the usual means of obtaining subjects and how much are they paid? Could you tell me something about what kinds of equipment might be available for my use at the laboratory? I plan to bring the specialized things which I will need, but I would like to use a treadmill and expired gas metering equipment if available. I have been thinking seriously of bringing my automobile, a Jeep station wagon. The Peruvian consul here in Seattle informs me that I must have a permit in order to do this. He says that I must also have an entry permit from the Peruvian government before he can give me a visa. Would you be able to obtain these permits for me?

I have been corresponding with Dr. A. Lipschutz in Santiago concerning the possibility of arranging a physiological expedition to study cold adaptation in the Indians of Tierra del Fuego. This would be an extension of studies we have been performing on the Australian aboriginals, Canadian Indians and other groups. The expedition would probably take place in August or September, 1959, so I would be away from the laboratory during that time.

I am a little acquainted with the problems of living at high altitudes through the experience of spending four weeks at 14,000 feet in Alaska, and I am looking forward to learning much more about this interesting environment. Only the completion of my thesis remains before I am awarded the Ph.D. degree next spring.

Sincerely yours,

Robert W. Elsner
Robert W. Elsner

