

January 2, 1968

Dr. Adrian Kantrowitz  
Director and Professor of Surgery  
Maimonides Medical Center  
4802 10th Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11219

Dear Adrian

Your program, personality, enthusiasm coincide so much with mine, that I cannot but feel already part of your organization. I know that your efforts will lead to accomplishments and I believe that I would be able to energize this progress in the laboratory, and clinic, and the literature. Dr. Clarence Dennis was most encouraging on the phone and agrees that I would complement your team.

As far as details of my possible affiliation is concerned we are standing not far apart. I do feel that being isolated to the peripheral vascular area, at least until the transplant program comes into being would be somewhat restrictive. Perhaps a rotation of the cardiovascular material in between all those interested would be a better solution, and more exciting for everyone. There are a few problems that I would like to attack, such as transpositions - coronary anomalies - the usual defects do not present a challenge.

I certainly would be able to organize f.e. a good coronary arteriography unit and coronary endarterectomy effort. As you know, this was my early interest and now I have a few clinical cases with recovery, one last week. I would like to restrict myself to areas of special interest. It could not be of any economic threat or otherwise to our cardiac colleague, but I would hate to see go to waste all the cardio-thoracic experience of the past years, and especially the past two years. I of course assume that we would be partners on a team in the clinical-experimental procedures such as the kidney, liver, cardiac grafts, etc., all that requires so much effort.

I have studied the economic situation as to my move and living in New York. My present income is approximately \$65,000 a year and I of course want to sacrifice this for a full-time appointment. I am being offered \$35,000 to direct full-time a cardio-thoracic university program in Texas. I am however more excited about helping you direct a functioning laboratory in addition to clinical

January 2, 1968

work as you suggest. A salary of \$35,000 to \$40,000 yearly would be closer to my requirements of living in New York, to educate five children, four of whom are in school.

I hope that we may be able to find a formula for the NIH as I would be chagrined if any material consideration should interfere with my strong desire to help your effort, and our mutual scientific interests. Consultation work for some scientific firms f.e. is apparently accepted by the NIH; perhaps Maimonides and the University may want to pitch in with more solid "hard core money" supplemented with NIH and or private patient funds, putting my salary on a more solid footing, a career research award perhaps may be the solution, this I am told can be supplemented. Clarence whose opinion I esteem so much may advise us.

I again wish to say how natural our partnership appears to me; to resolve problems in the laboratory, apply them in the operating theater and clinic is my most ardent desire. Is there a University Press available to you? I have one monograph ready for printing and Billroth's biography is in progress. I will appreciate your thoughts on the above, I am sure that you will understand that my move to New York would be quite consequential. I realize that it is a risk for both of us; I shall take it if you will.

Kindest regards to your good wife!

Sincerely

Karel B. Absolon, M.D.

KBA:bc

CC: Dr. Clarence Dennis