

December 6, 1967

Harold A. Zintel, M. D.
Director of Surgery
St. Luke's Hospital Center
Amsterdam Avenue at 114th Street
New York, New York 10025

Dear Harold:

Anent our prior conversations and exchanges concerning a Research Professor with research as well as clinical responsibilities, I write to suggest that Dr. Karel Absolon tells me he is definitely interested. He is planning a trip to New York and will be staying at the Statler Hilton Hotel and would like to come out to visit with you on Tuesday morning, December 12.

Dr. Karel Absolon comes from a distinguished family in Czechoslovakia. His Father was a well known Anthropologist and Archeologist on the Czechoslovakia University Faculty. He worked his way up the Academic Ladder by his own efforts. He came to us from Yale, where his research talents attracted the attention of several members of the Faculty including Dr. Harry Greene, Professor of Pathology. Absolon is an extremely facile linguist and reads and speaks many languages. He did very distinguished work here and I urged him to stay on until the right kind of academic opportunity came his way. Sometimes the waiting periods seem inordinately long to young surgeons in the Academic Arena. I believe that Karel would fit nicely and comfortably into the opportunity you have, helping you to build a strong and productive teaching and research unit.

I am sending you Dr. Absolon's Curriculum Vitae and his list of publications as it was when he left here in the Fall of 1966. He is a true Scholar in the real sense with a keen interest as well as knowledge of Medical History. Absolon's paper on the Billroth School of Surgery is probably the finest in the literature. He has a great talent for original thinking on problems. Absolon has a brilliant mind and a scintillating personality. Increasing maturity also is making him a patient man.

Holiday Greetings!

Owen H. Wangenstein, M. D.
Professor Emeritus
Department of Surgery

OHW/mkj

bc: Dr. Karel Absolon

I must concern myself with the well being of my family whom I have thought reflected for years, because of my own research and clinical preoccupations. I do hope that you will understand my considerations. The reason for the mentioned paper of science and clinical science in the United States is the relative well being of the scientist. If I am to give to Maimonides my total effort it is I could do so only without worry of raising my children to my satisfaction without worrying about material ~~mean~~ suffering.

Dr. Fred Bashour of \$30000
 Dr. Fred

I thank you for your nice reception in Dallas. The salary arrangement of \$ could be satisfactory if I could augment it with the ~~provides~~ various fringe benefits we discussed. I assume that Dallas is approx. as expensive as ~~amerillo~~. The future of your institute is great and if associated with a serious research effort would be most satisfactory to me. I of course assume that I would be allowed in the future to take into consideration the increasing expense with f.e. my 3 childrens college education etc. Certain areas I consider if in case the kiddy grows if such utilities expenses as medical insurance etc could not be financed from that source?

I am especially excited that next to the clinical effort I could really push research and areas such as transplantation and pleurological laboratory investigation. This I find an absolute necessity - as open heart surgery f.e. by itself lost its lustre for me.

We think so much the same, my dear Fred, that good old Minnesota is coming back to me. To reject this and the same into your institute, while teaching students would be my ambition. Indeed our mutual agreement makes me almost wish to be an internist, but I am terribly happy to be just a reluctant surgeon ~~or in the~~ on top as well as on patients. Adventurous only when competing with the undertaker.

much too much philosophy and dialectics as it is, now back to my work. I will be awaiting your news. I must admit that I am still considering Kautowitz but I put my requirements very high in view of your affirmation as to an appointment in your set up and the University in Dallas.

Please do thank your good wife for the report!

Your Karl

Dr. Karl