

STATE UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW YORK

DOWNSTATE MEDICAL CENTER

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COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
Department of Surgery

Dec. 11, 1967

Dr. Karel B. Absolon  
Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery  
2714 West 10 Street  
Amarillo, Texas

Dear Karel:

Please accept my humble apologies for the long delay before I have answered your letter of October 10. I caught a heavy cold at the American College meeting which I failed to overcome during the month of October. I came down with pneumonia early in November and was in the hospital for a while and am just back at work. I trust the long delay has not thrown your plans and inquiry out of active consideration.

The Maimonides Hospital of Brooklyn I believe is one of the largest kosher hospitals in the country. I believe it is about 500 beds. It is very amply supported by the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. It has a close contractual tie with the Medical School so that Adrian Kantrowitz holds a full professorship and his full-time associates similarly hold faculty appointments of a full-time nature. The contractual relationship is such that I was Chairman of a committee, with representation both from the staff at the hospital and from the full-time faculty at the Medical Center, which was responsible for selecting Adrian for this position. We have become very fast close friends. Adrian is a rugged personality but a most challenging one and certainly one with a wealth of marvelous ideas which he has the ingenuity and tenacity to support with active work. His predecessor there was Alfred Hurwitz, whom I also was dominant in bringing into our academic family. Al succeeded in gaining support from the NIH and the trustees of the hospital for the construction of a very beautiful research laboratory as a separate building in the hospital complex. It is in this area that most of Adrian's research program is situated. He has had excellent support from the NIH and excellent collaboration from his brother, Arthur, who is a highly intelligent and qualified engineer.

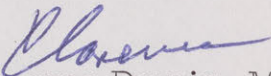
I believe I make the situation clear in that I give my fullest support to what Adrian is endeavoring to undertake and indeed am listed as a con-

sultant on his research programs in the grant requests which he makes and usually in the decisions as to clinical applications as well, so that Adrian may have the comfort of knowing that he has full official backing from the Department of Surgery when he embarks on problems such as the recently attempted cardiac transplant.

Adrian has a sort of project or contractual grant arrangement so that he is able to engage a team of people to work together upon the projects of interest to him. I suspect much of the direction comes from Adrian and Arthur, but he has been able to engage the wholehearted enthusiastic support of his medical colleagues as well. In short, I would suggest that it might be very wise indeed for you to visit Maimonides and take a careful look at all aspects of the situation. I am sure that arrangements would be made so that you could take care of those patients of interest to you as well as pursue the investigative work that you have in mind in the experimental laboratory. It would seem to me that you and Adrian might make a highly effective team, and if you were to come full time, I should of course be happy to propose you for faculty appointment as well, with the understanding that you would participate both at Maimonides and at the Medical Center in student education in addition to other activities.

I hope this letter helps, late though it comes. I should be most happy to be kept abreast of what your thoughts and plans are in this regard. With every good wish, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

  
Clarence Dennis, M. D.  
Professor & Chairman  
Department of Surgery

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