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Correspondence: From Emanuel Suter to G. Dekle Taylor on J. Hillis Miller Health Center College of Medicine, 1965-10-02

Emanuel Suter MD

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October 2, 1965

G. Dekle Taylor, M.D.
Marshall Taylor Doctors Building
Jacksonville 7, Florida

Dear Dr. Taylor:

This is in reply to your letter of September 23 which you sent me with the report of the Duval County Medical Society Committee on Medical School Development.

I should like to mention first that the Committee should be commended for the very forward looking proposal to be adopted by the Duval County Medical Society. In order to develop fruitful collaboration between the physicians of the Duval Medical County and the C of M, it is imperative that the initiative be taken by your group. I can assure you that the staff of the C of M is very eager to cooperate with you and do everything in its power to participate in a program which is aimed at furthering education and research in Medicine. However, I have to add that the resources of the C of M, especially in people, are limited to put it mildly and that any acceptance of responsibility has to be commensurate with their restrictions.

I should like to comment in the following to some of the recommendations which you are placing before you. They refer to pages 3 and 4 of your report.

- I. A. To be added that facilities and opportunities should be provided for the full-time departmental chiefs to conduct investigations of their own choosing, either of clinical or basic biologic nature.
- II. B. I do not think that the C of M or the Teaching Hospital and Clinics could become a full member of JHEP. However, we would greatly appreciate being able to participate in the meetings of the Board of Directors in order to become more fully informed of the programs undertaken by JHEP.

- II. C. It seems advisable that the representatives of the C of M could participate in a committee which would help establish conditions of employment which would assure the selection of full-time department heads who will qualify for appointments in the C of M.

The most important, from our point of view, is the very close collaboration presently existing between Dr. Max Michael, from your institution, and Dr. Tom Bartley, from the C of M. They have worked out an extended program of postgraduate education to be executed jointly by the C of M and the Duval Medical Center. It is our opinion that should this program be a success, it is very likely that we could even extend our cooperation with the Duval Medical group.

As to your suggestion that Dr. Max Michael be given a more weighty appointment in the C of M, I can assure you that we have given this thought very serious consideration. As a matter of fact, it was I who first suggested that this should be done in the future. There are, however, other considerations which make us to be cautious; there is considerable pressure exerted on us from other medical groups to enter into a similar relationship as we are planning to enter with you. Since our resources are limited I have to be very restrictive and prevent any dilution of efforts. It seems quite important that we limit our degree of collaboration with one group to such an extent which we would be able to offer to another in an equal fashion.

I wonder whether you would be interested in exploring how the University of Missouri Medical School established their relationship with the Kansas City General Hospital. This might serve as an example for such a relationship in the future. It might be worthwhile if some representatives of your group would get together in the near future with Drs. Richard Schmidt, Tom Bartley and myself. I believe considerable personal contact will be necessary to establish a kind of understanding which is the first step towards a true collaborative effort.

Emanuel Suter, M.D.
Dean

ES/lha