



## ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES

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Leonidas H. Berry, M.D.  
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Dear Leonidas:

How nice it was to hear from you recently. I was very interested to hear about your program in Gastrointestinal Cancer and your editorial and writing work in the book on Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. From your brief description it would appear that these were rather unique experiences - the first must have been particularly rough, but it must have been a real satisfaction to have held the project together under such pressures. At any rate, the psychologists say that the only effect of not facing up to a challenge is the loss of the opportunity to grow. So you must have taken some nourishment from this one. The book, however, must have been a real source of gratification. I think it is an edifying achievement to make a substantive contribution to the body of knowledge on a subject and I am proud to have had the pleasure of having been associated in a joint venture with the editor and a primary author.

It is clear that you have continued to be productive in a scientific sense along with the societal contributions of your work on the national association and federal program policy levels. Adam Yarmalinsky once wrote that he believed the best people were those who gravitated between the bureaucratic levels of government and national organizations and the real life of action on the firing line and I think you are a living example in point. A year or so after the Nixon Administration came into power, I became convinced that the future for health services programs was pretty dim, I decided to leave my position as Associate Commissioner for Rehabilitation Services. I did free lance consultation work for about a year, working as Special Consultant for Health Services Program Development at Georgetown University, Department of Community Medicine, Westinghouse Health Systems and here at the AAMC, among others. Eventually, I wrote a grant application for a

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program to focus on the critical issues of university medical center involvement in HMO development and when the grant was funded I came on to work full time on the project. My greatest goal at present is to get off the production firing line and do a serious piece of documentation, analysis and writing on (guess what) the natural history, ecology and evolution of the RMP ! I have a very strong conviction about the importance of such a study and of my capacity to do it, but now I have to try and convince some granting agency to agree with me. I do hope I can find support somewhere for this.

I do want to say, Leonidas, that the period when we worked together to try and advance the RMP concept I consider to be one of the most creative and satisfyingly constructive experiences in my career. We used to laugh about Connie and his constant references to "men of good will" but I really think the spectacle of men and women of diverse backgrounds from within and without government, physicians and laymen working together to produce a new form of better health care delivery is really the way to go.

To repeat myself, it was a great pleasure to hear from you. I hope we manage to keep in contact and see one another from time to time. I suppose another RMP type experience is too much to hope for!

Sincerely,



STEPHEN J. ACKERMAN  
Special Consultant  
Department of Health Services

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