

*CE can you
add to 1973
letter
JB*

February 7, 1973

Frank L. Iber, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Lemuel Shattuck Hospital
170 Morton Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02130

*p. ~~Parsons~~
WLR*

Dear Prof. Iber:

I have just returned from travels to find a letter from Dave Spodick and to learn that he is a candidate for academic advancement.

I send this brief note to emphasize the rarity if not uniqueness of Dr. Spodick's impact on cardiological thought. Few competent clinical cardiologists have his breadth of vision and depth of understanding of cardiovascular diseases. He understands and masters the care of the sick. He appreciates that there may be a larger role for the physician in the early detection of disease, and in the risk concept. He knows the limitations of traditional diagnostic and therapeutic medicine due to the nature of chronic cardiovascular diseases and he embraces the challenge of attempts at prevention. He rightly emphasizes the development of reliable non-invasive indexes of cardiovascular function, sufficient to answer the scientific questions, as more widely applicable than techniques concentrating on absolute accuracy. He courageously and actively challenges the status quo and the embracing of inadequately tested mass therapeutic fads. He recognizes the essential ethics of empirical trials to test mechanisms and hypotheses.

It is appropriate that such important ideas be advanced, their effect on the medical community, from students up to deans, can only be salubrious.

I have never had the occasion for a daily or close working relationship with Dave Spodick, but am pleased to speak of his wider influence as I see it.

Sincerely,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director, and
Professor of Medicine

Hb/rs