

March 31, 1955

Leonard W. Ritzmann, M.D.
VA Hospital
Portland, Oregon

Dear Doctor Ritzmann:

You may recall my visiting you at the 98th in the Spring of 1953 seeking advice on the relative merits of Minnesota and Utah for residency. Except for missing the mountains the experience here has been excellent. For the moment my assignment is the VA Hospital here where the staff and training are most excellent. I have just completed several small projects while a Fellow in Ancel Keys Laboratory which was, as well, a worthwhile period, and am trying to organize events for the future.

On completion of clinical training July 1, 1956 I would like a Junior Staff position for a year or so before taking the Boards and making definitive plans for practice. This will probably become available to me here or at University Hospitals, but I am anxious to settle in the NorthWest. I would be interested to know if your hospital is set up for such Junior positions with visiting, teaching, out-patient, or research opportunities with the VA pay schedule for non-Board staff, such as we have here.

My primary interest is in Cardiovascular disease, and I have been working with Ernst Simonson and Otto Schmitt in theoretical electrocardiology the past two years. My primary purpose in the Junior Staff year would be obtaining clinical experience, however, with small projects in clinical or EKG research which I want to continue.

It would be a real pleasure to work in your unit, and I would be grateful for your counsel, which was quite helpful in my earlier decision for residency.

Sincerely yours,

Henry W. Blackburn, Jr. M.D.
Medical Fellow
VA Hospital, Minneapolis, Minn.

HWB/sg