

David V. Habib, M.D.

Columbia University
College of Physicians and Surgeons

630 WEST 168TH STREET, NEW YORK 32, N. Y.
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Handwritten signature: L. G. ...

Dr. Elmer K. Sanders
Veteran's Administration Hospital
2002 Holcombe Avenue
Houston, Texas

Handwritten signature: J. ...

AIR MAIL



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DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

May 16, 1951

Elmer K. Sanders, M.D.,
Veteran's Administration Hospital,
2002 Holcombe Boulevard,
Houston 4, Texas

Dear Sandy,

I have your letter of May 8th but unfortunately have not received the application for licensure as yet. As soon as I do I shall be pleased to sign it and send it along.

In regards to any opening that may exist, as I wrote you I would propose your name for the Chief of Surgery job at the V.A. Hospital in Brooklyn. I don't know of anyone who has heard from them so that perhaps they are still gathering information.

In regards to Al Levy he transferred to the Veteran's Hospital in Brooklyn when Halloran was taken over by the State. He is biding his time there I believe waiting for the Chief of Surgery job at the new V.A. Hospital in East Orange, New Jersey. I believe that off the record, he was promised this by the present manager. He is not acting as chief at the Brooklyn Hospital because the former chief is there and his assistant.

Delafield Hospital has finally gotten underway and has an active bed capacity of 70 at the moment. There has been considerable difficulty in ironing things out with the City and while discussion before opening seemed to indicate that this would be an active cancer hospital, the intentions of the City now seems to be to handle a large percentage of custodial care cases. For example, we had arrived at two custodial for one operable one but the City seems to believe that a ratio of three or four to one would be more in line with what they need. This is in the stage of being battered back and forth and what will come of it is not clear at the moment. Joe MacDonald as you know, is the Director of Surgery and then there are various sub-sections under Surgery. Gray Twombly runs Gynecology and Perry Hudson a urologist from Johns Hopkins is in charge of G.U. Service. John Hanford is in charge of the Head and Neck Service but this seems to be a little out of line as almost all the head and neck work is being done by Joe MacDonald who is intensely interested in it. While Cushman decided that he would withdraw after the hospital opened it seems that his services are both important in coordinating all the squabbles and since he is the executive officer of the Medical Board for Delafield he has been persuaded to take an active role in negotiating deals and being the go-between for the Dean, the City and the Staff.

got it yesterday.

Tom Healy is the resident in General Surgery and seems to do quite a bit of work. I have helped him with about four or five radical mastectomies in the past several months.

As you have heard Tom Randall is leaving to become the Director at Memorial and needless to say this puts us in quite a hole. We had offered the job to a fellow named Dick Lemmer at Washington University of St. Louis. He is finishing his residency this year, had worked with Elman in the lab for one year but has decided to take a two year training program in Boston under Gamble who is to retire shortly. At the moment we are still casting about for someone to fill this position.

As you probably heard from Jack Healy we had an Alumni Day program which was coordinated with the P.H. Alumni dinner. We put on a little show for the boys which was predominantly clinical and they seemed to enjoy it very much. I must say that we probably flubbed the ball a bit by not sending out the notices sooner but hope in the future to be able to do this and also anticipate that it might be a session to which as many men as possible could return to their Alma Mater.

Dr. Humphreys is planning to go on vacation the 15th of June until the 1st of August and then I hope to take off for a month. The house is coming along beautifully with the flowers in bloom and during the first two weeks of August at least, I plan to remodel the kitchen. We were able to buy the equipment for it and it should be a beauty when it is ~~down~~. I hope to tear out everything that it is in there including the moving of the radiator and the stove and then start fresh including the walls and the floor. My aim has been to fix the house up as much as possible before the children get out of diapers and corduroy pants.

I am wondering what happened to the job you were dickering with at St. Vincent's. It sounded very good and I am wondering why you did not take it. From what I can see with the increase in insurance coverage there is no problem in getting patients but the real problem exists in getting them into a hospital and operated on. What with the facilities down there I would think that you would be coining dough at approximately the same rate as the U.S. mint. Have you turned it down, or are you still considering it?

This letter should reach you in time to wish you well on Part II of the American Boards, however, like all the people who have taken them before, may I say that all that you review will not be asked and I am sure that you will pass them anyway.

Sincerely,

Dand

DVH:hsr