

W. K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

LATIN AMERICAN DIVISION

May 10, 1955

BENJAMIN G. HORNING
DIRECTOR

PHILIP E. BLACKERBY, JR.
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Dr. Ignacio Gonzalez Gonzalez
Decano
Facultad de Medicina
Universidad de Concepción
Casilla #44
Concepción, Chile, S. A.

Dear Dr. Gonzalez:

I have received a letter, dated May 5, from Dr. Bruno Gunther, in which he informs me that he and the staff of nine full-time assistants of the Department of Physiology, of the University of Concepción Faculty of Medicine have resigned. I am enclosing a copy of my reply. Needless to say your friends here at the Foundation are greatly shocked. I did not think that this could happen in Chile, and I sincerely hope that the tragedy will be averted. If it does happen, it will be a major blow to your university from which it will take years to recover. I know that you are all reasonable and intelligent persons as well as my dear friends, and I expect that by this time you have been able to sit down at a conference table and that the problems are now resolved.

I hope that you and Dr. Gunther will forgive the frankness of my letters. We are such good friends that I am sure you will understand why I have written thusly.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

Benjamin G. Horning

Benjamin G. Horning, M.D.

BGH:go

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May 10, 1955

Dr. Bruno Gunther
Instituto de Fisiología
Casilla #44
Concepción, Chile, S. A.

Dear Dr. Gunther:

I have received your letter of May 5 with great sadness. It is a tragedy for the faculty of medicine. I hope that you and the members of your staff have not acted too hastily. You must think of the university as well as yourselves, and I strongly advise even at this late date that you discuss the subject with the officials of the university with the hope of resolving the misunderstandings.

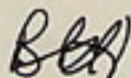
I have followed the development of the Department of Physiology at the University of Concepción Faculty of Medicine with much interest and considerable pride. It is my impression that you have received excellent support from your university -- more than any other Latin American Department of Physiology with which I am acquainted. I am most sympathetic with your desire to maintain high educational standards and to develop an outstanding center for research. I believe your first objective, however, should be to provide the best possible educational experience for the students. Teaching is not only the dissemination of knowledge -- it includes an art and while your staff are fine scientists, it is quite possible that they are not so expert in the art of teaching. This has been one of our major problems in the teaching of the basic sciences in the United States.

I would strongly advise you to go to the rector of the university and the dean of the faculty of medicine and assure them of your willingness to review the entire situation in order to prevent this tragedy from happening.

Please assure the members of the staff of your department that you all have our sincere sympathy during these sad days. I shall be grateful if you will keep me informed of the situation, and I sincerely hope that your next letter will tell me that the problems have been resolved.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,



Benjamin G. Horning, M.D.

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