

E. Medina

Columbia Medicine

July 14, 1966

Dear Jim:

Many thanks for your letter of July 8. I'm glad to know of your meeting with Johns Hopkins.

You should be prepared with an innovative frame of mind. Johns Hopkins is reaching beyond anything that conventional medicine has heretofore thought of in the United States. They mean to provide comprehensive health care for all Columbia families who seek it. This means home nursing service, group medical practice, hospitalization, psychiatric care. More than that, it means looking at community health in terms of the causes of health instead of remedy for disease. It means programs of health education, extensive diagnostic attention, working with family, church, and school to strengthen emotional and mental health.

One of the big problems, it seems to me, is how this program can be laid on top of the widely varying business and industrial programs; filling their peaks and valleys with supplemental coverage that can make this whole mosaic of prepaid health care and hospitalization work evenly for all families on a voluntary basis.

I am convinced there is an enormous opportunity here, and if Connecticut General can find the way to fit in with it, you can be a part of one of the most important advances in private health care the world has ever known. Johns Hopkins is looking at it in terms that large.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

James W. Rouse

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