

December 28, 1965

Dr. Bernardino Sumiacher
Medico
9 de Julio 2002
Rosario, Argentina

Dear Doctor Sumiacher:

I regret my delay in answering your letter of November 12th, but I returned only very recently from Santiago, Chile, where, as a consultant of the Pan-American Health Organization, I undertook to advise the principals in the Institute of Occupational Health and Air Pollution in the development of programs for research and professional training.

The matter of my visiting South America, and specifically Argentina, at an early date, is dubious. Certainly I can make no plans to this end at this time or in the very near future. I am scheduled to go to England and Greece in connection with a visit to Vienna at the time of the International Congress on Occupational Health in 1966 (the Congress in Vienna comes in the latter half of September). I am also determined to get to work on the study of a large mass of data that we have gathered, especially that concerned with lead, which I could not deal with during the last ten or fifteen years as Director of the Kettering Laboratory and the Department (of the Medical School) of which the Laboratory is a part. For this reason I simply cannot spend weeks and months in other activities either in or out of the United States.

I've been urged to visit Lima, Peru, in 1966, but I cannot promise to do so, and unless I have an unusual degree of success in my work here, such a trip is out of the question. As to a later trip, that would include Argentina, as well, I cannot make any commitment at this time.

With respect to available publications on the problem of lead and lead intoxication, I can offer some help, and it is a pleasure to do so. I enclose herewith some publications that should be of interest to you.

Your question concerning the "sensitivity" of animals to lead in the environment finds me perplexed as to your interest and the reasons for it. I gave up experiments with animals years ago, in relation to lead poisoning and the metabolism of lead, after many years of frustrating experience. There are, undoubtedly, certain experiments that can and must be carried out with animals. However, observations on men, under safe conditions of controlled exposure to lead in the laboratory, and further observations on individual workmen and on industrial populations, under occupational conditions, have been so much more productive of useful information, that I hardly expect to return to experiments with

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animals. Moreover, our concern with lead in industry relates to men and not to experimental animals, and what is true of man is not necessarily true of laboratory animals and vice versa.

I shall be pleased to hear from you again, and I trust that you will find answers to some of your questions in the material which I am sending.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

RAK:wp

enclosures as stated

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