

Negro Physicians
(Corres)
(Perry - Wm B)

June 14, 1937

Dear Dr. Perry: I am glad that you have made appointments in Washington to see Dr. Waller and Dr. Vonderlehr enroute to Tuskegee. I have your request with reference to the payment of your salary and I think it wise to make clear some relationships before you go South. Your appointment comes from Dr. Patterson, President of Tuskegee, and your salary will come from him as well. Such money as the Fund supplies for this experiment will be paid into the treasury of Tuskegee Institute but the Fund will have no direct supervision of the work.

I take it that you understand the relationship of the United States Public Health Service to that of the state health officers and, in turn, the supervision of the county units by the state health departments. This is the first time that any considerable amount of public health effort has been attempted with Negro personnel in connection with a county health department.

You are exceedingly fortunate, in that the United States Public Health Service is greatly interested in the work which is being done in Macon County. About five or seven years ago, Surgeon General Parran directed a syphilis survey in that county, and Dr. Vonderlehr has been following it up since that time. In addition to this, Dr. J. N. Baker, the State Health Officer of Alabama, is not only one of the outstanding health officers of the United States, but he is a grand person with whom to work and has shown a distinct interest in Negro health as a member of the Committee on Tuberculosis Among Negroes, as well as in his own State of Alabama. Dr. Murray Smith, the County Health Officer, has

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the finest of reputations among the professional and lay people of color in Macon County. He has recently been in Rutherford County, Tennessee, where a similar demonstration on a much larger scale is being conducted, so that he is acquainted with the administrative details of such a project.

You will be assigned to Tuskegee and to the John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital, but your work will be largely under the direction of Dr. Baker and his specialists and Dr. Smith. It is possible that an advisory committee regarding the control of this work may be set up. In the meantime, what may appear to be a complicated relationship of the federal, state, and county authorities, as well as those of the school, will, I am sure, work out without the least problem in administration. Everybody concerned has a common interest in the thing which is to be done.

I am very happy that you are to be the first person on the scene, and I hope your work will be done with the idea that at some future time it should be written up, at least from two points of view: first, as to the value of public health effort in a rural Negro population, and, second, as to the importance of the use of Negro personnel in public health.

Copies of this letter are going to the interested persons, and I am sure that if I have made any mistake regarding their relationships they will communicate either with you or me.

My very best wishes for you at Tuskegee.

Very truly yours,
M. O. BOUSFIELD

MOB:rh

M. O. Bousfield, M. D.

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cc: Drs. Patterson, Waller, Baker, and Smith.

