

*Negro Phys*  
*(Peterson, J.S.)*

GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO  
DEPARTAMENTO DE SANIDAD  
SERVICIO DE TUBERCULOSIS

P. O. Box 715, Mayaguez, P. R., May 22, 1940


Dr. M. O. Bousfield  
Director for Negro Health  
Julius Rosenwald Fund  
4901 Ellis Avenue  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Dr. Bousfield:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I have sent to Dr. Owen of the Philadelphia Public Health Department advising him I shall not be able to accept the position in his department and some of the reasons in general for my decision.

On my return to Puerto Rico I consulted with the Commissioner of Health about the proposed change. He has asked me to remain in Puerto Rico for the while anyway as my training and knowledge of Puerto Rico and Spanish make me an asset to his work. Furthermore he has offered me a change of work to something quite desirable, and substantial work for Dr. Joseph. The advantage from these offers and the gratitude I have to him for giving me a place when I needed it are greatly influential in my decision to remain.

Mr. Millen of the Department of Public Safety has written me that "--we are not sure as to the tenure of office here for the director of the health Center. As you possibly know, this is an experimental matter."

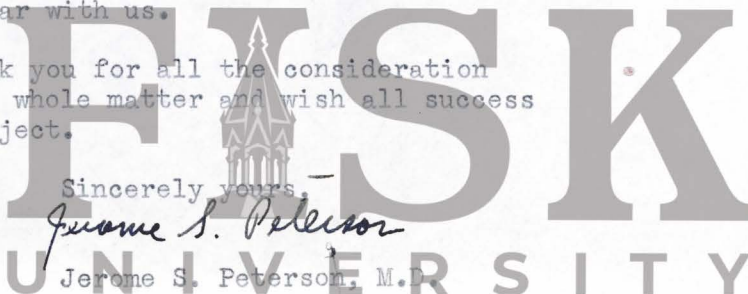
After weighing the whole matter as carefully as we could my wife and I finally concluded that somewhat superior advantages lay with our work in Puerto Rico, though the decision was a most difficult one.

I sincerely hope that you understand our situation in this and bear with us.

I wish to thank you for all the consideration you have shown me in the whole matter and wish all success to the Health Center project.

Sincerely yours,

*Jerome S. Peterson*



P. O. Box 715  
Mayaguez, P. R.  
May 20, 1940.

Dr. Hubley R. Owen, Director  
Department of Public Health  
City Hall Square  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Owen:

This is to confirm and expand on my cable of the same date regretting my inability to accept the position as Director of a Health Center in Philadelphia.

After talking the matter over with my wife and consulting with the Commissioner of Health I have decided that for the time being at least my place should be here. So many factors are involved that I can point to no one as the deciding one. The great need for me here, the excellence and possibilities of the type of work offered me here together with its permanence and great financial advantage are among some of the important considerations.

It has been an exceedingly difficult problem and I have some regrets of the happy association I had anticipated with you and the Philadelphia Public Health Department. I wish the project all success.

Very truly yours,

Jerome S. Peterson, M.D.

JSP:vj

cc to Dr. M. O. Bousfield

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**UNIVERSITY**