

May 17, 1977

Dr. Milton I. Johnson
2605 Cherokee Avenue
Macon, Georgia 31204

Dear Dr. Johnson:

When I started the PA program, I knew that I could not control these new professionals and build them in my own image. When I fathered three children, I also had to face the fact that each one would go his own way, and not always as I wished. Because I knew this, I have lived happily with the PAs and with my own children.

There are and always will be problems. Every doctor is not prudent, every doctor is not careful, every doctor is not honest. The same can be said for the PA.

I employ a PA who helps me run the medical portion of a church-related retirement home located on the edge of the Duke campus. I would not take on this responsibility if the PA were not available.

At the start of the program, we suggested that a better managed practice using PA support would reduce the need for more doctors. The country opted for no change in practice patterns and greatly increased the output of doctors. We will certainly have too many doctors.

Good luck to you in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Eugene A. Stead, Jr., M.D.

MILTON I. JOHNSON, B. S., M. D.
DIPLOMATE, AMERICAN BOARD OF FAMILY PRACTICE
FELLOW, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS
2605 CHEROKEE AVENUE
MACON, GEORGIA 31204

April 6, 1977

Eugene Stead, M.D.
Duke University Medical Center
Durham, North Carolina

Dear Doctor Stead:

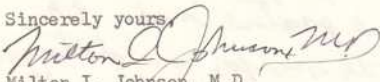
The Medical Association of Georgia is currently interested in and investigating the status of Physicians Assistants in our state. A committee has been formed to look into "both the actual and potential problems", some of which have been considered to be (1) the attempt by PA's to become independently licensed; (2) increasing government utilization of PA's in lieu of physicians; (3) The push by national PA organizations for greater PA autonomy and; (4) the growing surplus of physicians which in the future might result in a confrontation between physicians and PA's concerning the role of PA's in health care.

Some other problems discovered have been the misuse of PA's by physicians, the fact that the federal government is now prepared to pay 60% of a physician's fees for "independent" service rendered by his PA. There are several ominous implications in this new development, especially if and when "socialized medicine" or one of the euphemistic schemes in Congress is passed and implemented.

Since you have been the pioneer in the concept and development of college trained physician's assistants. We would be most appreciative of your comments on the situation as it was at the onset and the current status of the PA concept. Especially, has it turned out as you planned; and any other comments that you would be kind enough to make.

Hoping to hear from you shortly, I am.

Sincerely yours,



Milton I. Johnson, M.D.
Second Vice-President
Medical Association of Georgia

MIJ:mk

Dear Dr. Johnson,

When I started the P. A. Program I knew that I could not control these new professionals & build them in my own image. When I fathered 3 children, I also had to face the fact that ^{one} would go his own way - and not always as I wished. Because I knew this, I have lived happily with the PAs and my own children.

There are & always will be problems. Every doctor is not prudent, every doctor is not careful, every doctor is not honest. The same can be said for the P.A.

I employ a P.A. who helps me run the medical portion of a church related retirement home located on the edge of the Duke campus. I would not take on this responsibility if the P.A. were not available.

At the start of the program we suggested that a better managed practice using P.A. support would reduce the need for more doctors. The country would pay no charge in practice patterns & greatly increase the output of doctors. We will certainly have too many doctors.

Good luck to you in your deliberations