

016-353

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GEORGE F. GITLITZ, M.D., F.A.C.S.
MICHAEL A. BOGDASARIAN, M.D., F.A.C.S.

DIPLOMATES OF THE
AMERICAN BOARD OF SURGERY

Monday, December 30, 1985

Daniel F. O'Keefe, M.D., President
Medical Society of the State of New York
Glens Falls

Dear Dr. O'Keefe:

I was astonished to learn that Dr. Alan Blum will no longer be serving as Editor of the New York State Journal! It's hard to imagine how the Society could allow this person -- an internationally renowned authority in the field of preventive medicine, someone who adds lustre to the Society just by being on the premises -- to get away.

His most obvious contribution -- reason enough to bend every effort to retain his services -- has been his changing of the Journal from a pedestrian "house organ" to what is now a widely read and respected scientific publication. In addition to keeping Society members informed of essential Society business -- that goes without saying.

But more important, at a time when organized medicine seems to have only malpractice on the brain, and when young doctors in droves choose not to join state societies or the AMA because of a perceived lack of interest in, or certainly a commitment to, the real issues affecting the public's health and well-being -- Dr. Blum and the new Journal have given our Society an unmistakable image as one which does have such a commitment.

The two issues of the Journal devoted to smoking, to which I was privileged to contribute, have been acclaimed as milestones in the history of Public Health, and have pre-empted the two giant national journals, the New England Journal and JAMA, which only later then rushed to get on this bandwagon. These issues alone gave the State Society recognition which no amount of Public Relations money could buy.

I hope that the State Society will immediately look into the reasons for Dr. Blum's leaving, and make every attempt to reverse what I believe is a disastrous event.

Sincerely,



George F. Gitlitz, M.D.
Past President, Broome County Med. Soc.;
Recipient, 1984 Lawrence D. Redway Award
for Medical Writing, MSSNY

cc: Dr. Charles Aswad

MEMORIAL SLOAN-KETTERING CANCER CENTER

1275 YORK AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021



January 6, 1986

Daniel O'Keeffe, M.D.
President
New York State Medical Society
45 Hudson Avenue
Glens Falls, New York 12801

Re: Alan Blum, M.D.

Dear Doctor O'Keeffe:

Those of us dedicated to the problems caused by tobacco use were delighted by the two very effective issues of the New York State Journal on the subject. These have also caused widespread favorable reaction and Dr Alan Blum's courage in presenting them was admirable. It is also worth noting that the AMA is taking a public stance on cigarette advertising as well, and we should be proud of the fact that one of the first big guns fired was from our Society.

It is, therefore, with some concern that I learned of Dr. Blum's dismissal as editor of the Journal. The circumstances of his dismissal are not clear to me at the present time but I understand that there will be a Council meeting to discuss this matter. As in most situations of this type, there are always two sides to the question but I believe that you will assure Dr. Blum's receiving a fair hearing.

As this is of importance to many of us who are dedicated to anti-tobacco activities, I would very much appreciate hearing from you. I can also be reached by telephone at (212) 737-4734.

Thank you for your courtesy.

Sincerely yours,

William G. Cahan, M.D.
Attending Surgeon
Thoracic Service, Memorial Hospital
Emeritus Professor of Surgery
Cornell University Medical College

WGC/ba

The American Journal of Dermatopathology

Editor-in-Chief: A. BERNARD ACKERMAN, M.D.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
530 FIRST AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10018
212-340-7250

January 6, 1986

Dr. Daniel O'Keefe, President
Medical Society of the State of New York
45 Hudson Avenue
Glens Falls, New York 12801

Dear Dr. O'Keefe,

It has just been brought to my attention that Dr. Alan Blum has been dismissed as Editor of The New York State Journal of Medicine. I write to you now as a member of the Medical Society of the State of New York, an editor of a medical journal, and a physician who believes that if physicians do not treat one another decently, they surely will not treat patients well.

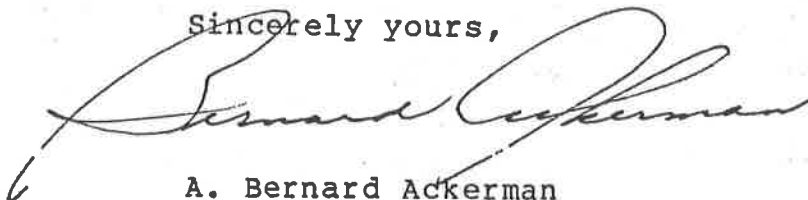
Of course I am not aware of all the details that led to the dismissal of Dr. Blum. What I have been told is that he was fired summarily without any warning, that he was given no reasons for his being fired, and that he was given no chance for a hearing before the Council of the Medical Society of the State of New York. If what I have heard is true, the firing of Dr. Blum is a stain on our society and on our profession.

From the vantage of an editor, The New York State Journal of Medicine prior to the editorship of Dr. Blum was little more than a rag. It was completely undistinguished and had no impact whatsoever on either the state or the nation. During the short tenure of Dr. Blum's editorship, The New York State Journal of Medicine has become one of the most important organs of our profession in the country. Not only has he raised the academic standards immeasurably, but he has brought a profound sense of social consciousness to the journal and to its readership. I regard his performance to be nothing less than spectacular.

O'Keefe, Page 2
1/6/86

If Dr. Blum has been dismissed for compelling academic or ethical issues, please disregard this letter. However, if his dismissal is a consequence of his having moral conviction and the courage to act upon it, then his firing is an act of cowardice and of infamy.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. Bernard Ackerman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

A. Bernard Ackerman

ABA:mch

cc: George Lawrence, M.D.
Charles Sherman, M.D.
John A Finkbeiner
Isadore Rosenfeld, M.D.

3230m



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

420 LAKEVILLE ROAD, LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y. 11042 (516) 488-6100



January 16, 1986

A. Bernard Ackerman, M.D.
Editor-in-Chief
The American Journal of Dermatopathology
New York University Medical Center
530 First Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Dear Dr. Ackerman:

Dr. O'Keeffe has referred your letter of January 6, 1986
to me for reply.

I wish to assure you that Dr. Alan Blum was not relieved of his
position as Editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine because
of any reasons related to the editorial content of the Journal.

Very truly yours,

George J. Lawrence, Jr., M.D.
Executive Vice-President

GJL:pm



ANNALS of Internal Medicine

Published by the American College of Physicians

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Kathleen Case, *Managing Editor*
Thomas J. Gillen, *Business Director*

January 6, 1986

Daniel F. O'Keefe, M. D.
President
Medical Society of the State of New York
45 Hudson Avenue
Glen Falls, NY 12801

Reference: File 4.1.2.1-1986 and 9.BLUM

Dear Doctor O'Keefe:

I write because I have just heard from Dr. Alan Blum of his apparently summary dismissal as editor of the Society's journal. I am very much concerned about this episode because I have gotten to know Dr. Blum through the meetings of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors and I have been watching with great interest his remarkable job with the journal.

I do not presume to judge any merits or demerits of the action because I know none of the possibly relevant details. But if his dismissal was indeed summary, I strongly recommend that the appropriate body of the Society consider the matter carefully. The editor of a journal needs to have considerable independence if he or she is to be a competent editor. At the same time an editor may be quite vulnerable because of the importance of being single-minded to be successful as an editor. Editorial work in medicine is an odd corner of medicine worked in by very few persons with any prolonged dedication. But this does not mean that an M. D. editor should be treated with less ethical and procedural care than any other physician. If a physician is charged with conduct potentially unacceptable to a state licensing board, he or she is entitled to know specific charges and to have a public hearing of the matter. Should not an M. D. editor have discussed with him by the responsible body of the organization any dissatisfactions with policy or conduct, with the opportunity to make changes or to decide the post is no longer attractive? This seems to me to be the only fair and ethical procedure. An M. D. editor fired from a job as editor can have his or her subsequent career as an editor put into great jeopardy.



Page 2

Daniel F. O'Keefe, M.D.
January 6, 1986

I believe that your Society has a good bit at stake in handling this episode properly.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Huth, M. D.
Editor
ANNALS OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

EJH/rb

cc: Alan Blum, M.D.



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Martha A. Baird, Admin. Mgr.

January 7, 1986

Dr. Cleve Kaplan
 111 Carlton Avenue
 Islip Terrace NY 11752

Dear Dr. Kaplan:

I have heard rumors of an abrupt dismissal of Dr. Alan Blum, editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine. I have had some past contact with him. To me he has always been extremely excellent. I have submitted a recent article to him that he has been working on hard with me. I certainly would wonder -- why an abrupt dismissal? Could you give me information on this? Has this been adequately investigated? Is this a responsible decision with which you concur?

I would appreciate any information and to be sure that this is a wise and justified move that has been made. Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth B. Cairns, M.D.

Southampton Office
 KBC:sla

January 8, 1986

Dr. Daniel F. O'Keefe,
45 Hudson Ave.,
Glens Falls,
New York, 12809

Dear Dr. O'Keefe:

I was amazed and horrified to learn, last night, that Alan Blum had been summarily dismissed as Editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine by Dr. George Lawrence, apparently without your knowledge, or that of Dr. Milton Gordon, Chairman of the Committee of Publications. Certainly, I as a member of the Committee, knew nothing of what was going on.

I thought that we had an excellent Journal under his leadership, ranking equal to or above any other such publication, with the possible exception of the New England Journal of Medicine.

The only reason Dr. Blum can find for his dismissal is his two issues on Smoking. Could there be pressure from advertising behind this?

If this is the way things are run, you can accept my resignation from the Committee on Publications. It does not seem to have any function.

Very truly yours,

Eliza H. Caldwell
Eliza H. Caldwell

cc: Dr. Milton Gordon

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA



OFFICE OF MEDICAL EXAMINER
1050 N.W. 19TH STREET
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136
(305) 549-7342

January 8, 1986

Daniel F. O'Keefe, M.D.
45 Hudson Avenue
Glen Falls, N.Y. 12801

Dear Dr. O'Keefe:

I recently learned that Dr. Alan Blum will no longer be in the employ of the Medical Society of the State of New York's journal. This is indeed unfortunate for under his leadership the Journal was in the vanguard of the current antismoking campaign to fulfill the Surgeon General's plan to omit smoking by the end of this century.

I certainly hope that the Journal can keep its leadership in this campaign. It would be a pity for such a voice of organized medicine to be stilled when we need all the help we can get to improve our nation's health and our image as concerned physicians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Joseph H. Davis, M.D.'.

Joseph H. Davis, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner
Professor of Pathology
Chairman, Judicial Council
Florida Medical Association
Past President, Dade County
Medical Association

Dr. Alan Blum ✓

JAN 9 1985

Daniel F. O'Keefe, M.D.
153 Bay Street
Glens Falls, New York 12801

Dear Dr. O'Keefe:

It has come to my attention that there are forces at work to remove Dr. Alan Blum from his post as Editor of the New York State Medical Journal. I also understand, as one might expect, that there are many who feel that this would be a grave injustice and the loss of an excellent editor.

Alan Blum has made the New York State Medical Journal, through its two special issues on smoking, a journal of national and international significance. I probably am as deeply involved in the smoking issue, here and abroad, as anyone, and I can attest to the fact that whether in foreign Ministries of Health or talking with private sector activists, Alan Blum has put the New York State Medical Journal on the map, and has given it credibility far above that of most such journals.

Although I realize that what happens inside of the New York State Medical Society is really not my business, I do feel that it is my business to call your attention to the great loss, on the national and international scene, that Alan Blum's departure would be.

The eyes of the whole public health world are on your journal. I hope that if the information I have is correct, that you will do whatever is possible to see that Alan Blum is retained to continue the work he has begun in your State, but which echoes throughout the world.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ C. Everett Koop, M.D.
C. Everett Koop, M.D.
Surgeon General

cc: Dr. John Finkbeiner
1015 Michigan Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dr. Charles Sherman
Highland Hospital
Rochester, New York 14620

Dictated by CEK:vsd, 1/8/85

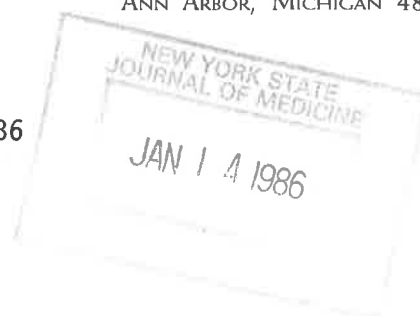
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48109-2029

January 9, 1986



Alan Blum, M.D.
Editor
New York State Journal of Medicine
420 Lakeville Road
Lake Success, NY 11042

Dear Alan:

In a recent moment of weakness I agreed to take on a rather unusual assignment: to write a paper anticipating the implications of a "smoke-free society." Obviously, this could cover any number of subjects, ranging from the effects on doctors' choice of medical specialty in the 21st century to the impact on the toothpick industry. Tentatively, I have decided to concentrate on some health implications (e.g., changes in sex differences in life expectancy; women's lung cancer rates continuing to rise two decades into the 21st century, even if all smoking ceased by the year 2000; etc.) and, mostly, on a variety of economic implications. Among the latter I have in mind such things as impacts on health care costs and pensions and Social Security; consequences for the U.S. economy in general and the tobacco industry specifically (farmers, manufacturers, etc.); effects on media advertising revenues; etc.

I am writing to solicit any brilliant ideas that might occur to you: what are the basic implications of the nation's becoming smoke-free, and what might be some of the more surprising or intriguing implications? Feel free to comment on any health and economic issues (or to suggest other areas you think ought to be covered).

I recognize that this is a rather unusual request. In that context, I hope that you will perceive it to be fun and a challenge, rather than an imposition. If the latter, however, please file this letter in the circular file.

There's no rush. I plan to begin organizing my thoughts in March. Thanks for any brainstorming you can share.

I send best wishes for a happy, healthy 1986.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ken Warner".

Kenneth E. Warner

KEW/kmv

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48109-2029

January 17, 1986

Daniel O'Keeffe, MD
President
Medical Society of the State of New York
45 Hudson Avenue
Glens Falls, NY 12801

Dear Dr. O'Keeffe:

I was appalled and saddened to learn of the firing of Alan Blum, MD, as editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine. It is difficult to imagine the Society's reasons for this action. I am saddened for the Society and the Journal, which Dr. Blum has single-handedly put on the national and international map; for Dr. Blum himself; and mostly for our society, which is losing what has proved to be an effective forum for one of this country's most articulate and powerful voices in the battle to avoid preventable morbidity and mortality.

I know Dr. Blum well. I can readily imagine that he is not the easiest person with whom to work. At the same time, I cannot imagine many people whose work is more important. Dr. Blum's approach to medicine is certainly not conventional, yet I and dozens of colleagues are convinced that he has made a more substantial contribution to the public's health in the time he has been with the Journal than all but a handful of physicians make in an entire lifetime of practicing medicine. His leadership is exemplified directly by the widespread and continuing attention that the two all-tobacco issues have received (truly on an international scale; I know this from meetings with colleagues as far away as China). Indirectly, Dr. Blum's leadership is reflected in the fact that JAMA is now publishing its third all-tobacco issue: I suspect that JAMA's efforts in this direction were at least strongly encouraged by the model established by the New York State Journal.

While I am genuinely distressed by the firing of Dr. Blum, my strong suspicion is that the ultimate victim of this action will be the Journal itself. I feel badly for the disruption and dislocation that Dr. Blum will experience as a result of your decision. I am confident, however, that his articulate and enormously important voice will find another vehicle through which to be heard and thus to influence the medical profession and the society at large.

I would be most grateful for an explanation of the basis of your action.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Warner, Ph.D.
Professor and Chairman

cc: Milton Gordon, MD
Philip Bonanni, MD
(cc's continued)

cc's continued:

John T. Prior, MD
Elizabeth Caldwell, MD
John A. Finkbeiner, MD
Samuel M. Gelfand, MD
John H. Carter, MD
Charles D. Sherman, Jr., MD
Charles N. Aswad, MD

/bcc: Alan Blum, MD

KEW/kmv

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48109-2029

February 6, 1986

George J. Lawrence, Jr., M.D.
Executive Vice President
Medical Society of the State of New York
420 Lakeville Road
Lake Success, New York 11042

Dear Dr. Lawrence:

I appreciate your responding to my letter to Dr. O'Keefe concerning Alan Blum's firing. While I am interested to learn that Dr. Blum was not "relieved of his position" for any reasons relating to the Journal's editorial content, I would be grateful for an explanation of the reason or reasons for his being fired.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Warner, Ph.D.
Professor and Chairman

KEW/kmv

~~bcc:~~ Alan Blum



LONG ISLAND JEWISH MEDICAL CENTER • NEW HYDE PARK, NEW YORK 11042

(718) 470-7212

ERIC MUNOZ, M.D., M.B.A.
HEAD, RESEARCH DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

January 10, 1986

Sam Gelfand, M.D.
Vice President of Medical Society of
the State of New York
155 West Merrick Road
Freeport, NY 11520

Re: Dr. Alan Blum, Editor of New York
State Journal of Medicine

Dear Dr. Gelfand;

I was extremely distressed to hear of the recent difficulties of Dr. Alan Blum regarding his editorship of the New York State Journal of Medicine. Having moved within the last two years to the Long Island area, I have followed the activity of both the Journal and the of Medical Society. I feel that there has been a gradual improvement in the overall quality of the Journal. In addition, I feel that it was judicious of the Medical Society to support a young editor and scientist. I have now been informed that there is a serious concern about continuing Dr. Blum in this regard; I thus have a much more reserved outlook regarding my commitment to the New York State Society of Medicine.

I would urge you to reconsider any change of editorship or leadership of the New York State Journal very carefully. I realize there may be internal conflicts within your organization presently which may influence the exchange. However as a relatively new and young member of the New York State medical community, I believe that both Society and the Journal would be better served by continuing Dr. Blum in his present position.

I look forward to your attention to this matter. Feel free to contact me at any time.

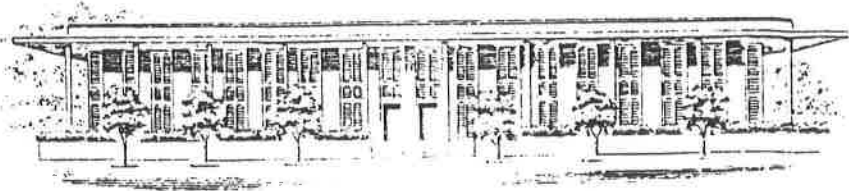
Sincerely,

Eric Munoz, M.D., M.B.A.
Head, Research Division
Department of Surgery, LIJMC





MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
 420 LAKEVILLE ROAD, LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y. 11042 (516) 488-6100



GEORGE J. LAWRENCE, JR., M.D.
 EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

January 14, 1986

Alan Blum, M.D.
 127 Chase Road
 Manhasset, NY 11030

Dear Doctor Blum:

I enclose three checks representing five weeks of accrued vacation time.

Please be reminded that you must return the keys to the Medical Society building. Your continued failure to return the keys constitutes a breach of security procedure that cannot be accepted by the Society.

As you will recall our discussion, we desire to provide you with a monetary amount equaling four weeks of your salary at the time of your dismissal. It was made clear, and it should remain clear, that the Society is under no obligation to make this monetary provision, but only intends to make this provision in order to assist you to adjust to your severance from the Medical Society.

Your continued failure to return the keys to the building, however, does not make it possible for the Society at this time to make this monetary provision. We may have no choice but to pursue other options should you continue to fail to return the keys belonging to the Medical Society.

Your attorneys have been notified that your personal effects would remain undisturbed in your former office until Friday, January 10, 1986. This gave you two weeks to claim your personal effects. This period was more than reasonably necessary for you to claim your effects. As of Monday, January 13, 1986, any effects remaining in your former office have been placed in cartons and are being kept in storage. You may claim those effects on any work day during business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

Sincerely yours,

George J. Lawrence, Jr., M.D.
 Executive Vice-President

GJL:jg
 Enclosures (3)

cc: Daniel F. O'Keeffe, M.D.
 John A. Finkbeiner, M.D.
 Samuel M. Gelfand, M.D.



AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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1600 Clifton Road, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

January 15, 1986

Daniel S. O'Keefe, M.D.
President
Medical Society of the State
of New York
420 Lakeville Road
Lake Success, NY 11042

Dear Dr. O'Keefe,

I understand that Alan Blum, M.D., has been released recently from his position as editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine.

I have known Dr. Blum since 1980, when I first became involved in organized medicine. I have found him to have a sincere, undying dedication to promoting the health of the patient and the community. He has consistently pursued his beliefs in the halls of organized medicine, in both his professional and voluntary activities. Dr. Blum's journalistic achievements at the Journal of the American Medical Association (as a Morris Fishbein fellow), at the Medical Journal of Australia, and at the New York State Journal of Medicine, have been substantial and commendable. In particular, his literary contributions in the area of tobacco and health, as author and editor, are unsurpassed. His departure would leave a void in this important area that few others would be able to fill.

Dr. Blum's dismissal from the New York State Journal of Medicine, I believe, would be detrimental to both the Journal and to the medical and public health communities, which benefit so much from his talents and efforts. I hope that the Society will consider reinstating Dr. Blum as editor of the Journal.

Thank you very much for considering this matter.

Sincerely,

Ronald M. Davis, M.D.



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

Alan,

F4I.

Ron

STATE OF NEW YORK

N. Y. 11042 (516) 488-6100



986

Ronald M. Davis, M.D.
Centers for Disease Control
Center for Prevention Services
Division of Immunization
1600 Clifton Road, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Davis:

Dr. O'Keeffe has referred your letter of January 15, 1986 to me for reply.

I wish to assure you that Dr. Alan Blum was not relieved of his position as Editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine because of any reasons related to the editorial content of the Journal.

Very truly yours,


George J. Lawrence, Jr., M.D.
Executive Vice-President

GJL:pm



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

016-364

Office of the Dean

6411 Holmes Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
Telephone: 816-494-4101

January 15, 1986

Dr. Dan O'Keeffe
President, Medical Society
State of New York
45 Hudson Avenue
Glens Falls, NY 12801

Dear Dr. O'Keeffe:

I am writing this letter in behalf of Dr. Alan Blum, who has been serving as editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine. I have been acquainted with Dr. Blum for some time since he served as a visiting professor and Docent at our institution a few years ago. Recently, I have followed his professional activities and have been a great admirer of his editorial talents as the editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine.

Dr. Blum has taken some forthright stands on important public health issues facing our nation and I believe that the Journal, under his editorial leadership, has become a quality publication which has received considerable national and international attention.

I strongly support therefore, the continuation of Dr. Blum in his editorial role with the publication of the Medical Society of the state of New York.

Sincerely yours,


Harry S. Jonas, M.D.
Dean

HSJ:mjg

116 Webster Avenue
Manhasset, NY 11030

January 20, 1986

Charles D. Sherman, Jr., M.D.
Highland Hospital
Rochester, New York 14618

Dear Dr. Sherman:

I deeply appreciate your expression of support for my family and me during this difficult time. Because my request to appear before the Executive Committee has been denied, I am especially grateful for your interest in receiving a statement concerning my tenure as editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine and my dismissal.

If a clearer understanding can be communicated of the way in which the Medical Society of The State of New York selected me to become the editor, of the objectives that were given to me upon my arrival, of the challenges I faced, of the contributions I have made, and of the circumstances surrounding the dismissal, then I believe there can be a fair resolution of this unfortunate situation.

On January 12th Dr. O'Keefe assured me that the matter of my dismissal would be considered at the January 22nd Executive Committee meeting. Although I was not invited to be present, I remain willing to appear. I thought it would be helpful to provide background material to assure that as the committee deliberates this serious matter it has all of the facts. As we have discussed, you have my permission to use this letter and the supporting documents in any way you feel appropriate.

Sincerely,

Alan Blum, M.D.

AB:FG

HALPERN & PASTERNAK, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
1101 STEWART AVENUE
GARDEN CITY, N.Y. 11530

(516) 222-0110
(212) 772-0174

GERALD P. HALPERN
WINIFRED PASTERNAK

January 21, 1986

George J. Lawrence, Jr., M.D.
Executive Vice-President
Medical Society of the State
of New York
420 Lakeville Road
Lake Success, New York 11042

Dear Doctor Lawrence:

Doctor Blum sent us a copy of your letter of January 14th, and asked that I respond.

His keys to the Society's building are enclosed. He had intended to return them at the Executive Committee's meeting on Wednesday, if he had been permitted to attend. On Friday I learned that his request was denied. Consequently, the two keys -- to the building entrance, and to the security system -- are sent herewith.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Very truly yours,

GPH/ay
enclosures Two (2) keys
cc: Daniel F. O'Keefe, M.D.
✓ bcc: Alan Blum, M.D.

Gerald P. Halpern

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Coleman M.C. Fineberg, CAE



THE SUFFOLK COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

850 Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, Long Island, N.Y. 11788 (516) 285-8866

January 22, 1986

To the Council of the Medical Society
of the State of New York

Gentlemen:

The Suffolk County Medical Society is very disturbed by the news of the precipitate and harsh dismissal of the Editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine.

We feel that justice must not only be done, but must also be seen to be done.

If the dismissal of Dr. Alan Blum is, indeed, already a "fait accompli" then we regret the loss of this talented servant of MSSNY. We hope that this is not so.

If it is, sadly, the case, then it remains for us to treat fairly this employee whose financial and professional life has been ruined by his association with our state medical society. The whole course of events reflects very badly upon the public image of MSSNY and we should act to repair it.

We urge that Dr. Alan Blum be given a six months period of severance pay and an extension of his medical insurance so that the pregnancy and delivery of his wife is within the umbrella of his health insurance.

PASSED BY VOTE OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

BRENT ALAN BLUE, M.D.

POST OFFICE BOX 4143
JACKSON, WYOMING 83001

FAMILY MEDICINE OFFICE
415 EAST PEARL STREET
JACKSON, WYOMING 83001
(307) 733-8002

GRAND TETON MEDICAL CLINIC
AT JACKSON LAKE LODGE
GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK
MORAN, WYOMING 83013
(307) 543-2514

January 22, 1986

President, Medical Society of
State of New York
Box 5405
Lake Success, New York 11042

Dear Sir:

I would like to express my severe dismay at the sudden termination of Alan Blum, MD, as editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine.

Dr. Blum has done tremendous things for the Journal and his health promotion issues concerning smoking have put the Journal on the "map" nationally.

Since Dr. Blum was terminated without apparent cause, I must question the integrity of the system. I urge your society to correct its error.

Sincerely yours,

Brent A. Blue, MD

BAB/qtg

BC Alan



MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

420 LAKEVILLE ROAD, LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y. 11042 (516) 488-6100



GEORGE J. LAWRENCE, JR., M.D.
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

January 28, 1986

Brent A. Blue, M.D.
P.O. Box 4143
Jackson, Wyoming 83001

Dear Dr. Blue:

Dr. O'Keeffe has referred your letter of January 22, 1986 in reference to Alan Blum, M.D. to me for reply.

I wish to assure you that Dr. Alan Blum was not relieved of his position as Editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine because of any reasons related to the editorial content of the Journal.

Very truly yours,

George J. Lawrence, Jr., M.D.
Executive Vice-President

GJL:pm

BRENT ALAN BLUE, M.D.

**POST OFFICE BOX 4143
JACKSON, WYOMING 83001**

**FAMILY MEDICINE OFFICE
415 EAST PEARL STREET
JACKSON, WYOMING 83001
(307) 733-8002**

**GRAND TETON MEDICAL CLINIC
AT JACKSON LAKE LODGE
GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK
MORAN, WYOMING 83013
(307) 843-2514**

February 3, 1986

**George J. Lawrence, Jr., M.D.
Executive Vice-President
Medical Society of the State of New York
420 Lakevill Road
Lake Success, NY 11042**

Dear Dr. Lawrence:

**Thank you for your letter of January 28, 1986, assuring me that
Dr. Blum was relieved for reasons other than editorial content.**

Then, Sir, why in the heck was he relieved?

Sincerely yours,

Brent A. Blue, M.D.

BAB/qtd

**COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Richard D. Lamm
Governor

Frank A. Traylor, M.D.
Executive Director

January 22, 1986

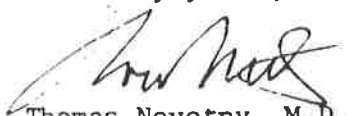
Daniel O'Keefe, M.D.
45 Hudson
Glen Falls, NY 12801

Dear Dr. O'Keefe:

I am writing this letter concerning the dismissal of Dr. Alan Blum, as editor of the New York State Medical Journal. I can only point out to you that we in the public health field feel that Dr. Blum has provided a remarkable contribution to the efforts directed against the smoking epidemic. The two New York State Medical Journals are quoted widely and distributed widely to professionals working in this field. You and the Board of the New York State Medical Society have silenced a very important voice whose efforts in smoking control have been extremely valuable. Dr. Blum has been on the leading edge of the fight against cigarette smoking, and he has provided, through the publication of the New York State Medical Journal, a focus for wide-spread activities in the field of tobacco studies.

I know it is rather late for you to reconsider your decision, but I hope that you realize that there are a great many of us who think that your action is reprehensible and inappropriate. We hope that your future editor will carry on the work that Dr. Blum has started and that the concerns for the smoking issue perpetuate those of Dr. Blum.

Sincerely yours,


Thomas Novotny, M.D.
Medical Epidemiologist

TN/mr

cc: Alan Blum, M.D.
✓ 116 Webster Ave.
Manhasset, NY 11030

Pete Bialick
GASP
Box 12103
Boulder, CO 80303



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Health
Washington DC 20201

JAN 23 1986

Alan Blum, M.D.
116 Webster Avenue
Manhasset, New York 11030

Dear Dr. Blum:

Thank you for your willingness to address the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force in San Francisco, California. Your presentation entitled "The DOC Model for Clinical Prevention: Beyond Posters, Pamphlets, and Preaching" is scheduled for January 28, 1986, at 10:00 a.m. at the Sir Frances Drake Hotel, 450 Powell Street on Union Square.

In our January 16th telephone conversation, you noted that the 1983 and 1985 smoking-related issues of the New York State Journal of Medicine (NYSJM) would be available at cost (\$2.00 each) to the members of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. I made arrangements through Federal procurement to order 25 copies of each issue, totalling \$100.00. Kevin Davey in the NYSJM circulation department informed me today that the 1983 and 1985 issues would cost \$4.50 and \$6.00, respectively, per order of Editor Pascal James Imperato, M.D. Hence, I regret to inform you that the journals will not be available at the Task Force meeting due to the prohibitive expense. Nonetheless, we took forward to a most stimulating audiovisual presentation.

Sincerely,

Angela Mickalide

Angela D. Mickalide, Ph.D.
Staff Coordinator
U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

cc: James A. Harrell



016-372
American College of Physicians

4200 Pine Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
(215) 243 1200
(800) 523 1546
TWX 710 670 0586

Robert H. Moser, MD, MACP
Executive Vice President

January 23, 1986

Dr. Daniel O'Keeffe
45 Hudson Avenue
Glens Falls, NY 12801

Dear Doctor O'Keeffe:

It has come to my attention that Dr. Alan Blum has been discharged as editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine under rather disturbing circumstances. I am distressed because Alan has done a superb job with the Journal and, as a professional journalist, I regret he will no longer be the guiding spirit of that splendid publication.

But even more disturbing is Alan's account of how he was dismissed. I am sure you will ensure that he is accorded appropriate "due process" - in consonance with the tradition of fairness that is the hallmark of your society.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Moser, M.D., M.A.C.P.
Executive Vice President

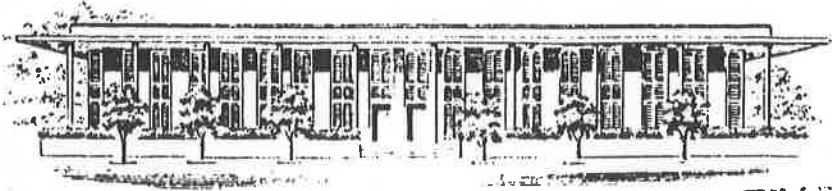
RHM/mrc

Enc: Dr. Alan Blum



*Cop to Alan Blum
D.Y.D.*

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
420 LAKEVILLE ROAD, LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y. 11042 (516) 488-6100



GEORGE J. LAWRENCE, JR., M.D.
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

RECEIVED

February 10, 1986

FEB 12 1986

OFFICE OF THE EVP

Robert H. Moser, M.D.
Executive Vice President
American College of Physicians
4200 Pine Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dear Dr. Moser:

Dr. O'Keeffe has referred your letter of January 23, 1986 concerning Dr. Alan Blum to me for reply.

I wish to assure you that Dr. Alan Blum was not relieved of his position as Editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine because of any reasons related to the editorial content of the Journal.

Very truly yours,

George J. Lawrence, Jr.
George J. Lawrence, Jr., M.D.
Executive Vice-President

GJL:pm

British Medical Journal

Telephone:
01-387 4499
Telegraphic Address:
AETIOLOGY LONDON W.C.1.



B.M.A. HOUSE
TAVISTOCK SQUARE
LONDON, WC1H 9JR

RS/JB

23 January 1986

Dear Alan,

Here is a copy of the letter we sent to the president and chairman, and trustees of the society.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Richard Smith BSc MB ChB
Assistant Editor

Dr Alan Blum
116 Webster Avenue
Manhasset
NY 11030
USA

Dr Milton Gordon. Chairman of the Library, Archives. and
Publications Committee of the Medical Society of the State
of New York

016-379

The Trustees of the Medical Society of the State of New York

Dear Sirs.

We are very sorry to hear that Dr Alan Blum has been dismissed as editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine. We do not know the details of why Dr Blum has been dismissed. but we do know that the journal has gone from strength to strength since he has been editor. Particularly impressive have been the special issues on smoking and minorities and medicine: these have gained the journal - and your medical society - considerable international attention and admiration

We also know Dr Blum because of his work with the group of international medical editors, and he has made a considerable and useful contribution.

As a result of our many international contacts we emphasise the importance of preserving a large measure of editorial independence when a journal is owned by a society. Of course, in the last analysis editors must be answerable to the members of the society, whom they exist to serve, but a good journal is difficult if not impossible to achieve if the editor every day must answer to the officers of the society.

The reports reaching us suggest that Dr Blum was dismissed in a peremptory way without being warned and without discussion with the committees that run the society and the journal. If this is true, we think it very sad that such a creative editor should be so casually lost.

Yours sincerely

British Medical Journal.
BMA House,
Tavistock Square,
London WC1H 9JR

Stephen Lock.
Editor

Richard Smith.
Assistant editor

Lancet.
7 Adam Street,
London WC2N 5AD

Ian Munro,
Editor

Robin Fox.
Deputy editor

BENNETT M. DERBY, M.D., P.C.
120 EAST 34TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016

13-2908890

MU 5-1936

January 24, 1986

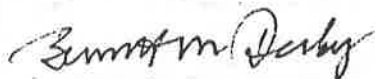
Editor
New York State Journal of Medicine
420 Lakeville Road
Lake Success, New York 11042

Dear Sir:

My previous service in correspondence and reviews, and my current status as a member of the Associate Editorial Board, have been much valued.

At this time, however, I wish to withdraw my connection with the New York State Journal of Medicine.

Yours truly,



BENNETT M. DERBY, M.D.

BENNETT M. DERBY, M.D., P.C.
120 EAST 34TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016

13-2908890

MU 5-1936

January 24, 1986

Medical Society of the State of New York
Box 5404
420 Lakeville Road
Lake Success, New York 11042

Gentlemen:

It is with little regret that I write to resign.

I have belonged to the Society for twenty years in the belief that I was ably represented by a group of persons with conscience, coherence, and awareness of genuine needs. Years ago I had severed connection with the AMA because I had there found otherwise.

Currently I am dismayed to discover similar disavowal of medical-ly proper and fair goal, method, and order in our own Society, to which I have long belonged and my father before me. I should add that in my enthusiasm, I had last year become a nonpaid member of the Associate Medical Board of our state Journal, after having done previous review work and becoming convinced of the effective and progressive upgrading of the Journal. I am, in separate correspondence, resigning from this role.

Recently the editor of the Journal, Dr. Alan Blum, was fired without reason, without hearing, without recourse, and totally without representation from the body of the membership or its council. This was accomplished exclusively by the Executive Vice-President without consultation. On personal calls to the President and President-Elect immediately at the time, they were unaware of this action.

Contact with council members revealed identical lack of communication. Subsequently there has been an executive meeting, and a full council meeting, without redress and, in the case of the council, without sanction ("more information"). Neither the President nor President-Elect have contributed one decision, acutely conspicuous in revealing a 'one man show' without check or balance.

This action represents a dual incompetence and negligence whose faces I would like to share with you. One is that our Society is instrumentally run, with binding decisions, by one man not even the actual head, with no limitation. The other is that our pronouncements in major areas, with which I have not necessarily always agreed but had thought represented a consensus, are now

seen as issuing from a single person who moves through no channels other than his own, without responsible accounting to the membership who are neither consulted nor polled. This is the more reprehensible since he is an employee, paid to serve the Society, and not to govern it. The end-effect of both, but more particularly the tampering with our Journal, is to demean every one of the physicians of New York State. This cannot be borne. Political tampering in Albany (politely, lobbying) is one thing, but politicization of a medical journal and its scientific standards is quite another.

I have paid my dues, but never previously with a feeling of 'taxation without representation'. Long aware of the pusillanimous degraded nature of our Journal in the past, a trade throw-away working overtime to offend no one and a literal house organ with no scientific content of merit, I was encouraged to think that my representation was sensitive and sound in seeking to change this by hiring Dr. Blum. Indeed, peer-review of submitted manuscripts began to be first-class, and editorials from authorities from throughout the country began to be invited, elevating the merit of the Journal from parochial to professional.

You should be aware that informed physicians throughout the country had watched the renaissance of the Journal with praise, but now have observed the means and mechanism by which this hitherto ever more respected organ has been deliberately trashed. Your governance has weakened the scientific merit of New York State physicians, has underlined the 'back room' atmosphere of the conduct of Society business, and in so doing has restored national and state physician assessment of the Journal to its previous 'laughing stock' status.

There is, moreover, an appearance that this may have been precipitated by the forthright stand adopted by the Journal under Dr. Blum regarding cigarettes, for which the Journal has been highly lauded. As a result of your governance, we are now perceived to have stepped on the toes of the tobacco industry. Whatever the accuracy of this, by implication the Journal is seen to have folded under to industry, with a clear-cut implication that the Journal likewise is knuckling under to the drug industry. This is intolerable.

It is a fact that Journal deficit had not increased under the tutelage of Dr. Blum (nor is there one reason why it should have to show a profit), and that advertising had begun to increase parallel with the increase in Journal quality. This quality had not gone unnoticed, as I had reviewed more and more manuscripts from authors outside New York State and as papers were published

routinely from origin outside New York State. There is no professional or economic basis for the irreversible and unilateral decision to downgrade the Journal, whose fruits were just beginning to be realized but now whose new editor is half-time - a reasonable basis on which to judge that the Executive Vice-President arbitrarily and literally decided to cut the quality in half.

Although I have made many phone calls to and exchanged views with many physicians on this matter, I have yet to encounter a single one who knew about, or who understood or accepted the decision to fire Dr. Blum or to degrade the Journal, and found not one who had not noticed and praised the self-evident improvement in what had been a 'rag' (this is not my word, but it fits). This is astounding to me, and it is equally astounding that this has been permitted to move forward without the slightest input from any except the Executive Vice-President. The Presidents (lame-duck and to-be) and the council have been emasculated. The script is virtually Russian. Even were, somehow, this whole thing to be reversed, Dr. Blum could not longer work under such a 'gun'.


You have in the meantime bared to the world how the Society is operated, blatantly impugning whatever we have had to say and whatever we might have to say about major issues such as malpractice, DRG, and physician distribution. As a subsidiary I note that the current issue of "News of New York" (dated 01-20-86; Dr. Blum was fired prior to and effective 12-31-85), issued by the Executive Vice-President, makes no note of the cashiering of Dr. Blum while broadsiding, supposedly on our behalf and representing our views, on malpractice. I would suggest that our own house be clean before we sweep others, and that your accountability to the membership has been negligent.

I fully grant the logical possibility of information contrary to the continuance of Dr. Blum, whose features I would have no way of knowing since they have never been aired, in executive meeting or in council meeting, nor has he been given opportunity to rebut. I strongly endorse, however, the most unlikely, remote likelihood of this since the execution of his firing and of the dislocation of the Journal has been completely underground, deliberately concealed from members and their representatives alike, and made innuendo, all diagnostic of suppression of the truth. Should my comments be inaccurate or themselves unfair, it would be the easiest thing in the world to simply conduct a council meeting presenting the facts and dissecting the responsibilities at which non-council members might attend and be heard, at which Dr. Blum could respond, and at which - as the responsible public professional

organization (not a secret craft of sorcerers) which we are -
reporters could be present.

I cannot associate myself with cellar-level quality of our Journal ever again, nor any longer with nonrepresentative decisions carried out at individual whim based on illogical and nonmedical grounds carried out as an ambush, to which no one in empowered authority is able to react.

Yours truly,

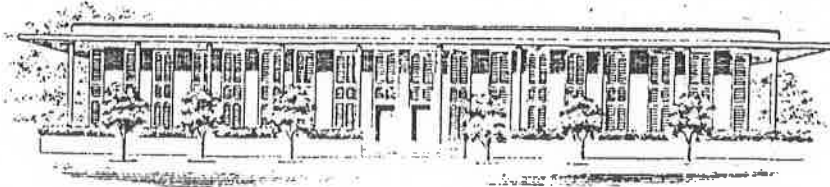
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bennett M. Derby".

BENNETT M. DERBY, M.D.



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
420 LAKEVILLE ROAD, LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y. 11042 (516) 488-6100



February 10, 1986

Bennett M. Derby, M.D.
120 East 34th Street
New York, NY 10016

Dear Dr. Derby:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 24, 1986 concerning Dr. Alan Blum.

I wish to assure you that Dr. Alan Blum was not relieved of his position as Editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine because of any reasons related to the editorial content of the Journal.

Very truly yours,

George J. Lawrence, Jr., M.D.
Executive Vice-President

GJL:pm

SURGICAL ASSOCIATES, P.C.

33 MITCHELL AVENUE

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK 13903

PHONE (607) 724-3237

GEORGE F. CITLITZ, M.D., F.A.C.S.

MICHAEL A. BOGDASARIAN, M.D., F.A.C.S.

DIPLOMATES OF THE

AMERICAN BOARD OF SURGERY

2/6/86

Ben,

Alan read me your excellent
letter. I'd appreciate a copy.

If you hear that of anything more
that we can do, let me know.

George Citlitz

BENNETT M. DERBY, M.D., P.C.
120 EAST 34TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016

13-2908890

MU 5-1936

February 14, 1986

George J. Lawrence, Jr., M.D.
Executive Vice-President
Medical Society of the State of New York
420 Lakeville Road
Lake Success, N.Y. 11042

Dear Dr. Lawrence:

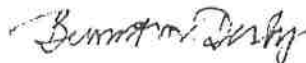
It was kind of you to respond to my letter of January 24th inst.

There may be much more to the relief of Dr. Alan Blum than I know, I am sure, and I hope one day we all may hear more, and hear directly, from you.

The appearance of this matter has, however, been flagrantly damaging to the image of the Society and of the Journal, an irreparable decision by you which cannot be retrieved no matter what extenuations, as you insinuate, may exist.

I am pleased nonetheless that you communicated.

Very truly yours,



BENNETT M. DERBY, M.D.

Alan -

There may be a ground
swell looming ...

134

MU 5-1936

Ben

Ge
St
33
Bi

PERSONAL

Dear George,

Your personal note and attached copy of a memorandum reached me yesterday, and warmed me greatly. It helps for me to see and feel that I do not have skewed vision on the what, to me, was a monstrous miscarriage about Alan Blum.

Your memorandum probably goes better and further than did my letter, a copy of which is enclosed as you asked. You spoke as an official of the MSSNY, and both you and Dr. Manzari isolated the real question in point: independent action by the EVP, an event of arrogance, and an insult to the membership at large and a much more direct assault on those appointed to govern, such as yourself. I have come to realize that Dr. Blum, the topical target, was almost incidental to the naked display of power by the EVP in bypassing every single person entitled to know and to consent.

I, also, wish to do more but do not know in which way to move. I would ask that you, in your position of a Council member, put your head together with other Council members (I know personally, for instance, that Charlie Aswad has an equally negative impression of this whole thing), form a majority, and pass a resolution or whatever kind of vote is called for. Unless I am awfully far wrong, it is the elected officers and the Council that are supposed to run the MSSNY, and not the EVP. Since I am not an appointed member of the MSSNY (and in fact have just resigned as you will see in my letter) I myself can have no input - you can. I will say that, should circumstances turn around a little bit so that things like this will not happen again, it would take no great encouragement for me to rejoin the Society and, for that matter, even seek appointive office to safeguard what we accomplish. It is this, of course, which made me sad: so much had been accomplished, and was turned into ashes by a single individual whose motives I still do not know. Let me hear from you -

Warmly,

Ben

BENNETT M. DERBY, M.D., P.C.
120 EAST 34TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016

13-2908890

MU 5-1936

February 25, 1986

George J. Lawrence, Jr., M.D.
Executive Vice President
Medical Society of the State Of New York
Box 5404
420 Lakeville Road
Lake Success, New York 11042

Dear Dr. Lawrence:

While the courtesy of your response to my earlier letter was acknowledged in a second letter to you, it has occurred to me that there remains a complete absence of any information surrounding the summary dismissal of Dr. Alan Blum.

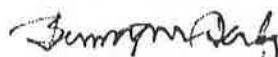
Having waited a due interval to see if you would provide in public forum the basis for this unfounded dismissal - for which you may have reasons but have provided none - it is now time to ask quite specifically what your reasoning was.

It has become clear, until you correct me otherwise, that this was a decision which you made, alone, without consultation with anyone; that you have persisted in concealing what the grounds were - even to Dr. Blum - which would be the least that one physician could do for another; and that a star chamber atmosphere has been installed directly by you for reasons that continue to appear personal.

I would like to remind you that you are an employee of the New York State Society of Medicine, and accountable. I think it is highly important that you account for yourself; as I have repeatedly pointed out to you there may have been some good reasons, as you saw them, to cashier the first breath of life in our Journal, but you are flouting credibility in making no explanations whatever. Leaving Dr. Blum aside, we who have been members are owed some communication from you beyond crypticism.

Kindly permit me to know, in private if not public, the information which made you feel driven to make the decision to release Dr. Blum. I regard the abruptness with which you did this, and your failure to honor his six-months 'warning' agreement, as very important but subsidiary to the main issue of the basis for your action. Your assistance will be valued.

Sincerely,



BENNETT M. DERBY, M.D.

RICHARD H. OVERHOLT, M.D.

INCORPORATED

135 FRANCIS STREET

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02215

(617) 738-7810

COPY

January 24, 1986

Copy

Daniel F. O'Keeffe, M. D.
45 Hudson Avenue
Glens Falls, New York 12801

Dear Dr. O'Keeffe:

Through the grapevine, I have learned that Dr. Alan Blum is no longer editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine. In view of the fact that this publication is sponsored by the Medical Society of your state, I thought I would write to you as president of your state society concerning this sad news.

I have always considered Dr. Blum to be one of the outstanding editors of any medical journal. I have also come in contact with him in regard to the cigarette and health issue and his efforts to expose the cover-up of the industry of the health hazards of their product. The two volumes of the New York State Journal devoted almost exclusively to the issue at stake and of the doctor's obligation to meet this problem head-on were outstanding examples of his leadership.

I hope you will use your considerable influence to take measures to re-establish him as editor.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Overholt

RHO/rcs
enclosure
Copy of Reprint
The Physician's Obligation
in the Smoking Issue
New York State Journal
of Medicine June 1, 1964

Dana Road
Valhalla, New York 10595
Telephone: (914) 592-2600

Naylor Dana Institute for Disease Prevention American Health Foundation



Main Offices:
320 East 43rd Street
New York, New York 10017
Telephone: (212) 953-1900

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Columbia University

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ARTHUR UPTON, M.D.
Professor and Chairman
Inst. of Environmental Medicine
New York University Medical Center

C.C. WANG
President
U.S. Summit Corporation

January 27, 1986

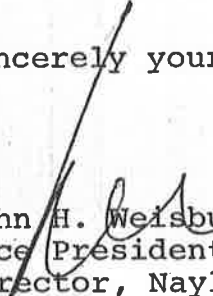
Alan Blum, M.D.
116 Webster Avenue
Manhasset, NY 11030

Dear Alan:

As we just discussed, I am sending you copies
of two letters.

Let's keep in touch.

Sincerely yours,


John H. Weisburger, PhD, MD (hc)
Vice President for Research
Director, Naylor Dana Institute

JHW:eo

Enc.

JOHN H. WEISBURGER, Ph.D., M.D.h.c.
Director, Naylor Dana Institute

DIETRICH HOFFMANN, Ph.D.
Associate Director

GARY M. WILLIAMS, M.D.
Associate Director

DAVID P. ROSE, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Director

RICHARD B. KLARBERG, Esq.
Executive Vice President/General Counsel

WILLIAM J. LEVITT
Founder and Past Chairman

DAVID MAHONEY
Founder and Chairman Emeritus



AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

535 NORTH DEARBORN STREET • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610 • PHONE (312) 645-5000 • TWX 910-221-0300

JAMES H. SAMMONS, M.D.
Executive Vice President
(645-4300)

January 21, 1986

John H. Weisburger, PhD, MD (hc)
Vice President for Research
Director, Naylor Dana Institute
for Disease Prevention
American Health Foundation
Dana Road
Valhalla, New York 10595

Dear Dr. Weisburger:

Thank you for your support of our stance against tobacco advertising. As you know, we believe that cigarette advertising encourages nonsmokers, especially young people, to become smokers.

With the help of other health organizations and concerned individuals, the American Medical Association hopes to eliminate such advertising. We hope to have a federal bill introduced that will prohibit all forms of advertising for all tobacco products.

We remain committed to striving for a tobacco-free society by the year 2000. It is encouraging to find such strong support for our recommendations.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your views with us.

Sincerely,


James H. Sammons, M.D.

JHS/dm1

SURGICAL ASSOCIATES, P.C.

33 MITCHELL AVENUE
BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK 13903

PHONE (607) 724-3237

GEORGE F. GITLITZ, M.D., F.A.C.S.
MICHAEL A. BOGDASARIAN, M.D., F.A.C.S.

February 6, 1986

DIPLOMATES OF THE
AMERICAN BOARD OF SURGERY

TO: Daniel F. O'Keefe, President, MSSNY
Members of the Council, MSSNY

FROM: George F. Gitlitz, M.D., Broome County
John A. Manzari, M.D., Broome County

RE: Termination of services of Alan Blum, M.D., Editor, NYSJM

The adamant refusal of the Council of the MSSNY to afford an open hearing to the dismissed Editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine, Dr. Alan Blum, has dismayed those colleagues of his who have been following his career since long before he was appointed to that office.

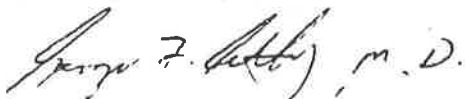
Dr. Blum was never presented with a statement of charges or complaints. Neither he, nor any of his colleagues, have been invited to appear before the Council to address any charges or complaints, though many of us -- both within and outside MSSNY -- have made clear, both verbally and by written communication, our concern.

The entire matter has been conducted in a series of innumerable telephone conversations, among parties with varying types of interest in the case, in which rumors of charges have been exchanged, but nothing has appeared on paper -- certainly nothing for the eyes of Dr. Blum. Apparently the Executive Vice President then presented a case to the Executive Committee and later to the Council -- but had Dr. Blum not himself submitted an unsolicited written statement in his own behalf there would have been no defense at all.

The MSSNY, apparently, insists on "playing this strictly by the book": Such a peremptory dismissal is the prerogative of the EVP, and that is that.

But to those of us who have labored for the Society in the areas of malpractice and professional misconduct, and who have insisted on the right of an accused to know what he is accused of and to face his accuser -- the treatment of Dr. Blum can only be described as "leaving a bad taste in the mouth."

The Council has not covered itself with glory in this matter. It would do well to reconsider not only the case itself but the way in which it was handled.


George F. Gitlitz, M.D.

John A. Manzari, M.D.



February 13, 1986

Dear Dr. O'Keefe,

It was with great surprise and dismay that I learned that Dr. Alan Blum was removed as editor of the New York State Journal of Medicine. Having done my residency in internal medicine at Albany Medical Center in Albany, New York and also through my involvement with the legislature in attempting to procure Clean Indoor Air legislation, I had numerous occasions to encounter Dr. Blum and his work. He is an extraordinary individual and his outspokenness, creativity, and resolve towards anti-smoking makes him a pioneer in that effort. He has received many accolades and will continue to receive them from those who know the effort and achievements he has accomplished despite working against a powerful, ingrained institution such as the tobacco industry. His stint with the NY State Journal of Medicine had drawn exceptional praise from those I trained with and under. He had made the Journal unique and something to respect by his repeated ability to focus and yet examine an issue. Under his direction, the Journal had become known as something more than just another state journal.

Though doing a fellowship in Memphis presently, I had renewed my license in New York in January. I strongly consider returning to New York upon completion of my training here. One of the strong drawing cards for establishing practice there was what I felt was New York's trend towards progressive medicine. This leadership role has had a major setback in losing Alan Blum as a spokesman and a leader. I know that I am not alone in this view, and that certainly I reflect many of those sentiments of colleagues in Albany.

In closing, I would just reiterate that Alan Blum is of rare caliber and the Journal and the New York Medical Society will likely be less without him.

Sincerely,

Bruce L. Wolf, MD
Clinical Fellow
Allergy/Immunology

Riftswood,
9th Milestone,
DD 229, Lot 147,
Clearwater Bay Road,
Sai Kung, Kowloon,
Hong Kong

19th February 1986

Dr Pascal James Imperato, M.D.,
Editor,
New York State Journal of Medicine,
420 Lakeville Road,
PO Box 5404,
Lake Success, NY 11042, USA

Dear Dr Imperator,

Thank you for your letter of 27th January 1986 regarding my article 'The Tobacco Industry in Hong Kong'.

Having met Dr Blum at the First International Summit of Smoking Control Leaders in Washington in September 1985, I submitted the article on request by, and as a personal favour to, Dr Blum.

I now find myself in a difficult situation regarding publication due to Dr Blum no longer being Editor of the journal. Regretfully, I feel, under the circumstances, that I must withdraw my article from consideration by the New York State Journal of Medicine. I can only apologise for the time that you spent editing the article.

With deepest regrets,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Judith Mackay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Judith" and the last name "Mackay" clearly distinguishable.

Dr Judith Mackay, FRCPE

February 28, 1986
Rt 9-w, Box 205, Rd#1
Selkirk, New York 12158

Doctor Alan Blum, Editor
Journal, Medical Society State of New York
420 Lakeville Road, Box 5404
Lake Success, New York 11042

Dear Dr. Blum:

It is with enormous pleasure that I write this letter to inform you that the New York State Federation of Professional Health Educators, Inc. has selected you to be the recipient of its **1986 SENATOR EDWARD J. SPENO AWARD**. This award is given annually to a person whose advocacy for the advancement of health education has been significant and continuing. The Federation is delighted to recognize you as a tower of strength, commitment and dedication to the cause of **"PREVENTING THE AFFLICTION RATHER THAN WAITING TO TREAT THE AFFLICTED!"**

The Award will be presented during the Federation's Annual New York State Health Education Conference in November of 1986 at the LaGuardia Marriott Motel adjacent to the LaGuardia Airport. The Award Banquet is scheduled for Friday evening, November 7th.

Each year the Award recipient is given an opportunity to speak to our Banquet audience. Every recipient has done so. We know you will want to do like-wise. Members of the Federation's Executive Board have heard you speak at state, national and international functions and are convinced that a presentation by you will be one of the Conference highlights.

The quality of life in our families and communities, as well as for each of us and our nation and world watches in great anticipation as **EDUCATION** and **HEALTH** begin a serious exploration of ways in which **A COMPREHENSIVE, PRIMARY PREVENTION HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM** can become a reality for **ALL!** We are grateful for your contribution.

Yours for Preventive Health Education,

Anthony J. DiBenedetti

March 3, 1986

John P. Naughton, M.D.
Dean, SUNY Buffalo
School of Medicine
Buffalo, NY 14214

Dear John:

I called Alan Blum this morning in reference to his helping me with some final editing of a small student text on cancer which I am putting together on behalf of the International Union Against Cancer. As an officer in the state medical society, I have gotten to know him well over the last few years and he was kind enough to offer to help me in the final editing of the fourth edition of our manual despite the problems which he has had with the state medical society in recent months.

In our discussion, I inquired about what his current status was and what I could do to help him, and he said he'd recently visited Buffalo and had some interest in the possibility of working there in some capacity. I don't know what you may or may not have heard about his situation, but I wanted to drop a brief note to let you know that I personally consider him an outstanding person of integrity, an infatiguable worker, a top notch editor, and a teacher who is charismatic and inspires loyalty in his students. In a short period of time, he transformed our New York State Journal into one of national and international stature. I have had calls and letters from all over the country and abroad expressing dismay at the actions of our state medical society.

His firing was accomplished by an interim executive vice-president without consultation with the executive committee (on which I sit). I was appalled at what was done, and the fact that an interim EVP could fire an outstanding editor of our journal without any real cause that I could determine. But I was also extremely dismayed at the negligible severance terms that he was offered. I and one other of the top leadership did everything that we could in an attempt to influence this decision, but we were outvoted by those who felt that we had to back up the executive vice-president in his position as one who controlled all staff appointments and decisions.

It came to the point where I either had to desist of any further vigorous action or to resign my position. (I am scheduled

to become president of the state society in two years). At any rate, it came to the point where I felt there was little chance of my helping Alan by a continuing fight. We will have a new EVP in March and perhaps that coupled with my "leadership" position over the next 3-4 years may help in making some changes for the better in our society.

I hope you do not mind my writing in this manner. I wanted to pass on my personal opinion for whatever it may be worth to you.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Charles D. Sherman, Jr., M.D.

CDS/klm

Burton C. Agata
Counsellor at Law

Law Building - 1000 Fulton Avenue - Hempstead, New York 11550

(516) 560-5869

(516) 560-5884

March 4, 1986

George J. Lawrence, Jr., M.D.
Executive Vice-President
Medical Society of the State
of New York
420 Lakeville Road
Lake Success, New York 11042

Pascal James Imperato, M.D.
Director, Division of Scientific Publications
Medical Society of the State of New York
420 Lakeville Road
Lake Success, New York 11042

Gentlemen:

Dr. Alan Blum has referred the report or proposed report of the Division of Scientific Publications (Number 86-Z, pp. 49-51) to me for review. Please be advised that Dr. Blum finds the report to be inaccurate in many material respects and that by virtue of false affirmative statements, and the deliberate omissions of facts as well as by virtue of deliberate innuendo, the report falsely defames Dr. Blum in his professional capacity as a medical editor and impugns his character for honesty and integrity. Each of you well knows Dr. Blum's contributions to the past year's product of the Society as well as his loyal and diligent service, yet the document referred to me as a whole and in its detail deliberately and falsely declares he made little or no contribution and that he did not perform the services for which he was paid. Further distribution of this document only can further falsely defame Dr. Blum. Therefore, I request that there be no further distribution of this document or its equivalent and that steps be taken to correct the impressions given where the document already has been distributed. You have in your possession Dr. Blum's proposed 1985 report which contains accurate statements concerning the quality and quantity of the work and its reception in the relevant communities. This and other information in your hands will provide the basis for an accurate report.

G, J, Lawrence, Jr., M.D., P.J. Imperato, M.D.

March 4, 1986

-2-

Please be assured that Dr. Blum considers this attack on his professional qualifications, qualities and conduct as quite serious and intends to take whatever steps are appropriate to remedy the damage caused by this document.

Yours truly,

(S)

Burton C. Agata

BCA:ig



PRIMARY CARE CENTER

Phone: 515/282-2426

18th and Hickman Road Des Moines, Iowa 50314 Phone: 515/282-2200

March 6, 1986

Allen Blum, M.D.
420 Lakeville Road
P.O. Box 5404
Lake Success, NY 11042

Dear Allen,

You seemed to have started a trend. Everyone seems to be doing special issues on smoking! JAMA had a good review of your last special issue.

I'm writing to inquire if you have had some contact with John Frey regarding your advise as an outside consultant for Family Medicine. As a member of the Communications Committee of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine I feel somewhat obligated to follow up on this. As you recall, we were hoping for a review of the journal, looking at such things as: Format and style, content, editorial approach, and relationship to STFM. I think carefully worded suggestions might go a long way.

The long range goal is, of course, to get into the Index Medieus.

The Committee will be meeting in San Diego in early May and I was hoping we could have some form of written report, if possible, by then.

I hope things are going well in New York. Spring is beginning to appear here in Iowa.

Sincerely,

Bery Engebretsen, M.D.
Director of Primary Care

BE:ag

pc: J. Frey



ACTION ON SMOKING AND HEALTH

2013 H St., N.W. • Washington D.C. 20006 • (202) 659-4310

March 19, 1986

Medical Society of New York
420 Lakeville Road
Lake Success, New York 11042

Gentlemen:

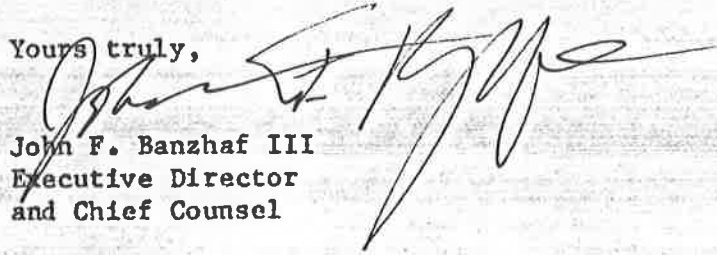
Action on Smoking and Health, the nation's only national organization devoted solely to the problems of smoking, writes to join many of our colleagues in the battle for nonsmokers' rights, including U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, in condemning your recent decision to fire Journal Editor Alan Blum, M.D.

Dr. Blum's imaginative and creative talents as Editor helped to put the New York State Journal of Medicine on the map, both here and abroad. Under his editorship it achieved a reputation which clearly distinguished it from the medical journals of the other states.

Your recent decision not only undermines the world-wide reputation the Journal has achieved, but puts a black mark on it, at least with regard to any person concerned and knowledgeable about the war on smoking.

For reasons which have been much better and more strongly expressed by others, we at ASH sincerely urge you to reconsider your decision, or at least the terms of the severance, which seem to be unduly harsh and niggardly under the circumstances.

Yours truly,


John F. Banzhaf III
Executive Director
and Chief Counsel

JFB:fd

✓ BCC: Dr. Alan Blum



March 27, 1986

Dr. John Corbally
MacArthur Foundation
140 S. Dearborn
Chicago, IL. 60603

Dear Dr. Corbally:

I would like to pass along a recommendation for the MacArthur Fellowship.

He is Dr. Alan Blum, who for a decade has been a leading and controversial figure in the war against smoking. Blum founded DOC [Doctors Ought to Care], the first physician group dedicated to snuffing out smoking among young people. He originated tactics using humor and parody to persuade them to not to start smoking.

I first met Blum when I was an editor on American Medical News, a newspaper published by the American Medical Association. He angered the medical establishment then when he exposed AMA ownership of tobacco stocks. He and other young doctors went public after AMA leaders made no efforts to sell the stock.

In the intervening years, as the medical writer on the Sun-Times, I have followed Blum's career as he has continued to prick the conscience of medicine, a profession that had done surprisingly little to wipe out smoking. I'm convinced that his efforts played a major role in the AMA decision last December to devote itself to banning cigarette ads as well as other anti-tobacco efforts.

This apparently got Blum in trouble with his employers, the New York State Medical Society, an AMA affiliate. Blum recently was fired as editor of the society's journal. I have enclosed copies of the journals Blum edited that were the first in the history of American medical publishing devoted entirely to smoking.

Dr. Blum is an original thinker, and I think he would be worthy of your fellowship. I am writing to you without his knowledge. Should you want to reach him, his address is 116 Webster, Manhasset, N.Y. 11030.

Sincerely,

Howard Wolinsky



NEW YORK STATE JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

420 Lakeville Road, P.O. Box 5404, Lake Success, N.Y. 11042 • (516) 488-6100

April 21, 1986

FYI

Kenneth E. Warner, Ph.D.
Department of Health Planning
and Administration
University of Michigan
School of Public Health
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Dear Dr. Warner:

We are planning to publish a group of thematic papers on
cigarette smoking/tobacco in the summer.

I would like to invite you to write a free standing editorial
commentary of from 750 to 1500 words on any aspect of the issue of
your choosing. Given your extensive knowledge of the field and
the respect with which your research is held, this would be a great
service to our readers.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Pascal James Imperato, M.D.
Editor

PJI/ejs

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48109-2029

May 2, 1986

Pascal James Imperato, M.D.
Editor
New York State Journal of Medicine
420 Lakeville Road
Post Office Box 5404
Lake Success, New York 11042

Dear Dr. Imperato:

Thank you for your letter of April 21 asking me to write a free-standing editorial on tobacco for your tobacco theme issue scheduled for this summer. While I appreciate your thinking of me, and your kind words about my research, I do not choose to comply with your request. Much as it is difficult for a scholar to turn down a sure-bet publication, I feel that my complying with your request would demonstrate a lack of respect for your predecessor, Alan Blum, M.D., whose work on the previous all-tobacco issues put the Journal on the national and international map. It is also my understanding that Dr. Blum had been planning to undertake a third all-tobacco issue and had been told by the management of the Society that this would be inappropriate. For that reason, I am surprised by your intention to have a concentration on tobacco in an upcoming issue. Are any of the articles for that issue ones that Dr. Blum had solicited?

I hope that you appreciate that I mean no disrespect to you personally. I simply have too high a regard for the work of Dr. Blum and too much disappointment with the way he was treated by the Society to be prepared to lend my name to the publication under editorship other than his.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Warner, Ph.D.
Professor and Chairman

KEW/kmv

cc: Milton Gordon, MD
Philip Bonanni, MD
John T. Prior, MD
Elizabeth Caldwell, MD
John A. Finkbeiner, MD
Samuel M. Gelfand, MD
John H. Carter, MD
Charles D. Sherman, Jr., MD
Charles N. Aswad, MD

bcc: ~~Alan~~ Blum, MD

APR 24 1986



NEW YORK STATE JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

420 Lakeville Road, P.O. Box 5404, Lake Success, N.Y. 11042 • (516) 488-6100

April 21, 1986

Gregory N. Connolly, D.M.D., M.P.H.
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
150 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Dr. Connolly:

We are planning to publish a thematic group of papers on cigarette smoking in the Journal this summer.

We would like to invite you to write an editorial commentary on the subject of smokeless tobacco of from 750 to 1000 words in length. This would be a great service to our readership which is sizeable both in and outside of New York State.

Enclosed is a copy of the July 1985 issue of the Journal that was devoted to cigarette smoking.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Pascal James Imperato, M.D.
Editor

PJI/ejs



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Human Services
Department of Public Health

BAILUS WALKER, Jr, Ph.D, M.P.H.
Commissioner

150 Tremont Street
Boston 02111

Division of Dental Health
2nd Floor
617 727-0732


June 11, 1986

Pascal James Imperato, M.D.
Editor
New York State
Journal of Medicine
420 Lakeville Road
P.O. Box 5404
Lake Success, N.Y. 11042

Dear Dr. Imperato:

I regret that I am not able to write an editorial commentary for your Journal. I remain deeply disturbed by the dismissal of Alan Blum who was responsible for bringing the New York Journal of Medicine to the status it now enjoys.

Sincerely,


Gregory N. Connolly, D.M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Division of Dental Health

GNC/lb

THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL-CORNELL MEDICAL CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL MEDICINE

28 April 1986

Alan Blum, M.D.
116 Webster Street
Manhasset, New York 11030

Dear Dr. Blum:

I note that you are no longer with the Journal
-- its loss.

I hope you have left because a more important
post awaits.

With my very best wishes,

Sincerely,



B. H. Kean, M.D.
Clinical Professor (Emeritus)
of Tropical Medicine and
Public Health

BHK:ar



July 15, 1986

Pascal J. Imperato, M.D.
Editor
New York State Journal of Medicine
420 Lakeville Road
P.O. Box 5404
Lake Success, New York 11042

Dear Dr. Imperato:

Several months ago, I entered a subscription to the Journal. I sent a letter along with my check, explaining why I, neither a native of nor a medical student in New York State should be interested in your publication. My reasons were simple: after reading The World Cigarette Pandemic, Part II, I saw the Journal as combining reporting of medical research with a strong social and political conscience. I expected it to expose me to information and perspectives that I would not receive from other publications. For the next several months, I was pleased to find that this was the case.

It was quite a surprise for me to read the modest announcement of a change in editors of the Journal. Even more surprising was the lack of praise for Alan Blum, who was responsible for bringing the Journal from a house organ of a state medical society to a medical journal respected outside of the New York medical community. I waited for the next issue, expecting a belated acknowledgement of Dr. Blum's contributions. With each issue, editorial focus shifted away from the perspective which drew me initially to the Journal. Even the caliber and relevance of the primary research published seems to have declined.

Now that the Journal no longer distinguishes itself from any other medical society publication, I see no reason for me to continue reading it. My own state journal provides more substantial research, and now by comparison has a more humanistic and insightful editorial perspective.

Before Dr. Blum left the Journal, I ordered two copies of The World Cigarette Pandemic, Part II, and asked that I be billed. The invoice arrived while I was debating whether to continue my subscription. (It is particularly ironic that the Journal continues to prominently advertise this particular issue as "essential reading for every physician" when the individual responsible for it, and his ideals, have been summarily banished from its pages.) I have decided that I am no longer interested in receiving the Journal. Please cancel my subscription and apply its balance to my invoice, and we'll call it quits.

Sincerely,

Laurie Radovsky

Laurie Radovsky
41 Henderson St.
Arlington, Massachusetts 02174

MEMORIAL SLOAN-KETTERING CANCER CENTER

1275 YORK AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021



July 22, 1986

Pascal James Imperato, M.D.
Editor
New York State Journal of Medicine
420 Lakeville Road
P.O. Box 5404
Lake Success, NY 11042

Dear Doctor Imperato:

Thank you for your invitation to write an editorial
for the New York State Journal of Medicine.

Unfortunately, my allegiance still remains with your
predecessor who, I feel, was summarily dismissed after
having brought out two remarkable issues on tobacco
abuse.

Therefore, although I feel as strongly as I do on the
subject of smoking and the villainy of its purveyors, I
cannot in good conscience comply with your request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William G. Cahan".

William G. Cahan, M.D.

WGC/ba



NEW YORK STATE JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

420 Lakeville Road, P.O. Box 5404, Lake Success, N.Y. 11042 • (516) 488-6100

July 28, 1986

William G. Cahan, M.D.
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
1275 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Dr. Cahan:

Thank you for your letter of July 22, 1986. Its second paragraph prompts me to let you know that Dr. Alan Blum's dismissal from the society was in no way related to either the editorial content or the editorial policies of the Journal.

Yours sincerely,

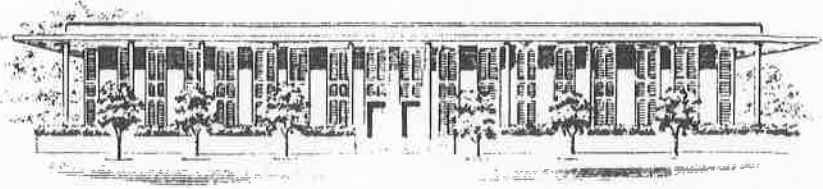
Pascal James Imperato, M.D.
Editor

RJI/ejs



MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

420 LAKEVILLE ROAD, LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y. 11042 (516) 488-6100



July 27, 1987

DONALD F. FOY
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

Alan Mayer Blum, M.D.
5115 Loch Lomond
Houston Tx 77096

Dear Dr. Blum:

I was disappointed to learn that you have not yet renewed your membership in the New York County Medical Society and the Medical Society of the State of New York.

Of course, we hope that this has been an oversight and that you simply forgot to pay your 1987 dues. If so, it's not too late. You still may maintain your membership by submitting your dues now: total of \$530 for the Nassau County Medical Society and the MSSNY. (Please make your check payable to the Nassau County Medical Society).

We can assure you that there will be no lapse in your membership benefits if your dues are received by August 31. Once your membership is terminated, though, you'll no longer qualify for any benefits, including our lowcost group insurance rates (such as for health care, life, disability and professional overhead), and publications.

If, in fact, you have decided not to renew your membership, though, please take a moment to let us know why. Your written resignation now will exempt you from paying financial penalties if you should decide to rejoin at any time in the future. And we would sincerely appreciate receiving your comments on MSSNY benefits and services, or suggestions for improving them.

Please let us know. You can use the other side of this letter for your response. We need your dues support, of course, but also your input to help us serve you and other New York physicians better.

Yours sincerely,

Donald F. Foy
Donald F. Foy
Executive Vice President

P.S. If you responded to our request to prepay the portion of your 1987 dues earmarked for medical liability, your payment is not reflected in the dues figure quoted above.

Please contact our Physician Records Department for a determination of the actual amount of your reduced bill. (Reductions are limited to the amount of dues earmarked for medical liability in your membership category.)