Middlesex General Hospital
New Brunswick, New Jersey

February 6, 1957

Dr. Kenneth Smith
Johns-Manville Corporation
22 East 40th Street
New York 16. New York

Dear Dr. Smith:

At the meeting of Mr. Oliver T. Clayton, Mr. John J. Bachalis, Mr. George Goettelman of Johnson and Johnson, Dr. B. K. Silverman, and myself held on December 12, 1956, at Middlesex General Hospital we reviewed the need in New Jersey for a Cardio-Pulmonary Function Laboratory such as is operating at the Columbia University Medical School (Presbyterian Medical Center) in New York City under the direction of Dr. Alfred Fishman. We agreed that there was such a need and we agreed that every effort should be made to establish such a laboratory. It, also, was the opinion of all that there should be no difficulty in securing the necessary funds providing that the laboratory was properly organized, properly equipped and that its operation would be impartial from all respects. These conditions could be assured without reservation because the laboratory would be organized under the direct supervision of Dr. Alfred Fishman and would be operated as a department in the Division of Research, Development and Physician Education of Middlesex General Hospital.

Those present requested me to prepare a two-page summary, in non-technical terms, outlining the need of this laboratory, what it will do, its organization, operation and a budget. I was also asked to secure endorsements for the development of such a laboratory from medical organizations having a definite interest in such matters and also from physicians interested in this field of medicine.

Securing the endorsements has been slow because all of these medical societies do not meet frequently and in two instances special meetings were called. However, I now have the endorsements from:

Medical Society of N.J. - Board of Trustees
N.J. Heart Association
N.J. Tuberculosis and Health Assn. - Executive Board
N.J. State Federation of Labor, A.F.L. - Executive Committee
Dr. Paul Geary of Plainfield
Dr. Harry J. White of the Roosevelt Hospital, Metuchen
Dr. Joseph A. Smith of Glen Gardner Tuberculosis Sanitarium
Dr. Joseph I. Echikson of Newark

I'm sure that the N.J. Chapter of the American College of Chest Physicians will also endorse this laboratory. As you will see from the endorsements there is enthusiasm behind the project. The endorsement by the Trustees of the Medical Society of N.J. pleased me particularly because they are careful to weigh all the pros and cons and they do not give their approval to anything lightly. Copies of the endorsements are enclosed.

Since our meeting I have given this matter much thought and I'm sure that you will agree with me that we must so organize the laboratory and so set up its operation that we can be as assured as it is humanly possible that the laboratory will function on the highest scientific plane, that it will be progressive as new knowledge is available, that it will in itself be keenly aware of research implications and that it will always operate impartially.

Dr. Alfred Fishman is considered an authority in this field of medicine. With him organizing this laboratory I feel confident that we can expect proper organization, equipment and even personnel. Having this laboratory organized and operating as a regular hospital department within the Division of Research and Development of Middlesex General Hospital will assure stability. Now there are two more safeguards that I think useful. One is a General Advisory Committee on the administrative as well as on the scientific policies of the Laboratory. This committee to be composed of representatives of the following:

INDUSTRY --- 1. those companies represented by the N.J. Manufacturers Assn.
2. those companies represented by the Self Insurors Assn.
3. those companies represented by the Mutual Insured group

LABOR ------ 1. A.F.L.
2. C.I.O.

MEDICAL SOCIETIES
1. Medical Society of N.J. Board of Trustees
2. N.J. Heart Association
3. N.J. Tuberculosis and Health Assn.
4. N.J. Chapter of American College of Chest Physicians
5. N.J. Cancer Society
6. N.J. Society of Industrial Physicians

STATE AGENCIES
1. N. J. Rehabilitation Commission

Director, Division of Research, Development and Physician Education of Middlesex Gen. Hospital to act as Chairman
Director of Middlesex General Hospital to act as Secretary

With this table of organization I think we can expect all that can ever be desired.

Now, as I understand it, the next step is the fund raising campaign. You all expressed optimism and I can't help but be optimistic also. It is my understanding that you will contact your various companies and ask them to pledge their financial support on a five-year basis. I do hope that you will have early responses to your appeal.

I have given the name of "Organizing Committee" to us, because it was necessary when writing for the endorsements. May I suggest that we operate as such a committee and with your permission I'll act as chairman. If there is any information that you need now or will need as you go along, please call me by phone and I will do my best promptly. If there is anything you wish me to do, please tell me. Now that we are at this point I'm anxious to complete this project as quickly as possible. Up to this point it has been tedious of necessity and because of the nature of the project. However, from now on it should move more quickly and I hope smoothly and favorably.

With kindest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely,

Joseph E. Kler, M.D.
Chairman
Organizing Committee