

January 31, 2010

Steven J. Scheinman, M.D.  
Dean, College of Medicine  
Upstate Medical University  
Weiskotten Hall  
Irving Avenue  
Syracuse, NY 13210

Dear Dr. Scheinman,

I wanted to thank you for taking the time to meet with me on Friday. I realize the enormity of your job and appreciate your listening to what I had to present. It is hard to pursue such an agenda without causing those involved with the actual program to feel as though they are being undermined. This was not my intention. I turned to you because I know that you are one who not only cares about the quality of the Medical School and University, but one who has authority to make things happen. It was not for lack of effort, (in regards to Dr. Badawy), that I would have also liked to impart these concerns to him. I just was not able to get in to see him after numerous attempts to tap into his busy schedule.

While the proposals I gave you are quite specific and entail some significant changes, I understand that most would likely have to wait until a new Chair is seated. My purpose was to illustrate, from an academic standpoint, where I believe some of the shortcomings are pertaining to resident knowledge and ability. It has been observed that few Upstate graduates consider the local program as well as the full body of American medical school grads. This is not to chastise any of the foreign grads, who, for the most part, have demonstrated the skills necessary to adequately get through the training. However, one must understand that certain reputations often precede the programs when fourth year American med students set out to consider various residencies for their training. Aside from the main characteristics of a residency program, it is customary for candidates to look at specific intangibles such as board pass rate (both written and oral), surgical competence (not just experience), percentage of American medical graduates, match rate for fellowship, concessions made by the department (books, conferences, etc.) as well as faculty members.

As stated in our meeting, I truly feel that the Ob/Gyn program at Upstate could easily be one of the best around. It has all the substrate. It just needs to be adjusted a bit in order to reach its full potential. This is where I know I can be of some help in getting it there. I recognize the delicacy in approaching Dr. Badawy about seeking a part time faculty position as a proctor in the resident outpatient clinic. For you to offer to bring this up to him, I am grateful. He is aware of my desire in this regard, yet I sense a great deal of apprehension given the dealings of the past. As I indicated to you, I really need to establish some sort of constant employment as a provider/teacher in order to be able to remain locally for my practice, patients and children. I am not asking for a huge salary nor am I asking for any type of leadership role. I have a tremendous amount to offer to the department and moreover, the residents were I to just be given a chance. And as stated last week, if after a certain trial period it is not apparent that I have provided positive instruction/teaching to the residents then I am willing to step aside graciously. But if the desire for the department is to bring in younger blood, then it needs to start somewhere. I have eleven plus years in this community, so I know it well. I already know each of the residents. I have a tremendous body of knowledge and ability to be able to impart. And lastly, were anyone to actually get to know and work with me, I am secure with the fact that I am not only likeable but deliver on my promises in a professional manner.

Once again, I thank you for your time and consideration when reading this letter in addition to the materials from last week. I look forward to hearing back from you, standing ready and able to help bring to fruition the long term goals of this department. Please feel free to share these feelings with Dr. Badawy as I am preparing to follow up with him in letter form as well. Have a wonderful week.

Sincerely,

James R. Caputo, M.D.