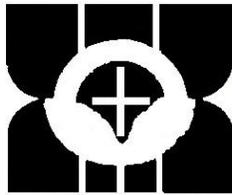


NOMINATION OF DR. ANIS BARAKA
TO THE ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY
ANESTHETISTS

DR. BERNARD BRANDSTATER



White Memorial Medical Center

17 January 1989

Dr. John Eisele
Associate of University Anesthetists
Department of Anesthesiology
U. C. Davis Medical Center
2135 Stockton BLV
Sacramento, CA 95817

Dear Dr. Eisele:

RE: Dr. Anis Baraka

I am writing this letter to nominate Dr. Anis Baraka for honorary membership in the Association of University Anesthetists. You will also receive, very soon, a letter seconding this nomination from Dr. Alan Grogono, and perhaps from others.

This nomination is to be accompanied by an updated curriculum vitae. I regret this will be somewhat delayed, due to the unreliability of mail services between the U.S. and Beirut. While the CV is on its way, I will recount here some of what I personally know about this exceptional man.

Dr. Baraka has served since 1971 as Professor of anesthesiology and Chairman of the Department at the American University of Beirut,

Lebanon. But his early development commenced at the University of Cairo, where he completed basic training in anesthesiology, and then proceeded to earn a postgraduate M.D. in anesthesiology.

Work for this degree included the completion of a major research project on relaxants, using the phrenic-diaphragm preparation in the rat. I personally inspected this thesis in Cairo in 1965, and it is assuredly an impressive piece of work. Cecil Gray was also impressed by it, and offered Anis a fellowship in his university department in Liverpool.

This was accepted, and Anis spent 18 months pursuing a number of studies connected with the clinical pharmacology of relaxants.

It was after this fellowship, in 1964, that I heard Anis give a lecture in Cairo, and was immediately impressed by his intellectual vigor, his creativity, his communication skills, and his zest for living. I lost no time in offering him a position at the American University of Beirut, where I was then Chairman. Anis accepted our offer, and a few months later he joined us as assistant professor.

In the ensuing four years Anis worked closely with me and became a tower of strength in our Department. He was an unwearying teacher, and would not spare himself in efforts to provoke, excite and inspire the residents and medical students that passed through the Department. He was also a compulsive investigator. He was one of those rare people who could scarcely spend a day in the operating room without coming up with some scheme for a study that urgently needed to be done. Many of his ideas were superb, but beyond our resources. Others were equally superb, and some of them were pursued.

A few ideas were too speculative for my taste, and I would tell him so. What I liked about Anis was that he would laugh uproarously at his own expense, and explain that an idea had to be a little wild to generate in him enough excitement to pursue it. One glance at his bibliography is enough to reveal the extraordinary fertility of his mind and the broad range of his interests.

I left Beirut in 1969. After two years Dr. Baraka was appointed as Professor and Chairman of that Department. It has given me immeasurable satisfaction to see that fine Department entrusted to his capable hands. He continued a strong resident teaching program, and did

much more. He attracted excellent medical graduates from his own medical school, helping to build the prestige of the specialty in a region where it has been slow to achieve full parity with other specialties. By his own warm self-assertiveness on campus, he has won numerous friends and has strengthened the image of his Department and his discipline. He has served on many university committees.

He not only, sustained those enterprises which I had initiated, but strengthened and improved them. He built a good Department of Inhalation Therapy. He obtained for himself and his staff a significant role in intensive care. He directed a clinical anesthesia program which would compare favorably with many teaching departments in the United States. And he assumed the editorship and management responsibility for the Middle East Journal of Anesthesiology, a publication which I had conceived and inaugurated in 1965. He has proved to be an effective leader in an institution where there are strong traditions of excellence, and where successful leadership calls for not only academic prowess, but also a large measure of personal charisma.

One aspect of Dr. Baraka's recent career deserves to be mentioned: his fortitude in the midst of armed conflict. In the mid 70's and through much of the 80's, Beirut has seen a great deal of tragic fighting and bloodshed. The American University Hospital has served valiantly, providing excellent care to hundreds and thousands of people injured during these hostilities. From the accounts of others I have learned that Dr. Baraka has been truly an unsung hero, often working around the clock, with pitifully limited resources, risking a collapse of his own health in order to serve his fellow men. He has spent many days in the hospital without respite, uninterruptedly doing what had to be done, and snatching only brief periods of sleep, whenever chance offered. His example in these trying times has been an inspiration to many, although he is reluctant to discuss these matters himself. His behavior under stress simply reveals the strength of his character, his powerful inner code of values, and his deep commitment to his institution.

Finally, I must add a personal note. Over many years Anis Baraka has been to me a true and faithful friend. This may not be germane to the A.U.A., but it says something about Baraka the man, about his character. He and I have spent innumerable hours discussing a wide range of

subjects in medicine, politics, culture, religion and philosophy. We have learned to trust one another utterly. I regard him as a scholar, a fine teacher, an effective academic leader, and an incomparable personal friend. He has an exceptional record of leadership in a medical school which is American in its name, its traditions and its aspirations. Its M.D. degree is issued under the authority of the Board of Regents of the State of New York.

I believe that Dr. Anis Baraka is made of the stuff we look for in honorary members. His broad scholarship and voluminous writings, his tireless devotion to pedagogy, his respectful following in the wide arena of international anesthesiology, his great contribution to a unique school of medicine, and his immense popularity wherever he is known ... all these mark him as a special kind of man. His qualities were recognized by the rank and file of A.U.A. when they gave him an extraordinary, standing ovation at last year's annual meeting. If A.U.A. now chooses to elect Anis Baraka as an honorary member, it will truly bring honor upon itself.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernard Brandstater". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a horizontal line underneath the name.

Bernard Brandstater, MB, BS
FFARCS, FFARACS, FACA, DA

Chairman, Department of Anesthesiology
White Memorial Medical Center

Professor of Anesthesiology
Loma Linda University

BB/as