

May 26, 1964

Dr. James E. P. Toman  
Department of Pharmacology  
The Chicago Medical School  
2020 West Ogden Avenue  
Chicago 12, Illinois

Dear Jim:

While I would love to have an excuse to meet in Palo Alto or Chicago, I have traveled so much that I think we should arrange this program by mail.

Following your letter, I received a copy of the memorandum from Jonathan Cole dated May 11, in which he described not only the needs for a program for January, 1965, but also indicated that there would be a one-day meeting on Saturday, October 24.

On the general topic of the neurophysiological correlates of depression, it seems to me that there have been some studies done by such workers as Shagass, Goldman, and Itil, who indicated that the EEG changes in depressive patients were different than in other groups. These studies have not yet been confirmed. More recently, Shagass has been involved with evoked potential studies in depressive subjects and these also have yet to be confirmed. There are some studies of psychophysiological differences in depressives and schizophrenics. All these, however, make fairly thin reading at the present time and I know of no serious data which could make up a one- or two-day symposium. In the event that there is a discussion of drugs which have an effect in altering depressive symptoms, I believe that there is some interesting material relating the EEG changes of phenothiazines, imipramine, and MAO inhibitors which may form an interesting theoretical model. However, this information is limited in scope and would provide but a small period of discussion.

While I failed to get very enthusiastic, I do believe that a re-evaluation of the sedation threshold and such measures, including their methodology and the theory behind them may be a reasonable format for a one-day meeting. This might permit us to invite

Dr. James E. Toman  
5-26-64  
Page Two

some of the people who have attempted to replicate Shagass' findings, or Goldman's, and to determine what the differences in populations, methods of drug administration, etc., may have been which contributed to the differences in the reports.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M. D.  
Director

MF/jb

cc: Dr. Keith Killam