

12 February 1974

MEMORANDUM

To: Walton W. Shreeve, M.D., Ph.D.
Acting Associate Chief of Staff for Research
VAH-Northport

From: Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

Subject: Proposal of Drs. Su and Rosen, "Molecular Model
of Morphine Dependence"

Re: 632/151, 2/1/74

The study is a basic science investigation of hypotheses concerning the pathophysiology of chronic opiate use.

Drs. Su and Rosen propose to use the cholinergic aspects of the neuromuscular junction of rat diaphragm to examine the significance of acetylcholine increase in dependence and abstinence. The study is well designed, the methods are feasible, and the authors have experience in using these methods.

The present version of the proposal is very much improved, with an excellent rationale and a more detailed presentation of methods.

The study does not involve human subjects.

The authors request the VA to establish the laboratory and request no funds for personnel and only limited supplies during the first year. The second-year request is modest, consisting half in equipment and half in technician support and supplies.

Recommendation: If the VA is able to provide basic science laboratory equipment for a non-patient-care effort through its established grant mechanisms, then the budget is appropriate and relevant, even modest.

Approval is recommended in the amounts requested.

MF/cis