

September 3, 1970

Dr. Arnold J. Mandell  
University of California, San Diego  
P. O. Box 109  
LaJolla, California 92037

Dear Arnold,

I look forward to seeing you in sunny California in February. There are two topics under study here that would interest the Society.

1) Antagonists in Opiate Dependence: The conditioning model of opiate dependence suggests that "de-conditioning" could occur if self-stimulations (needle + drug) went unrewarded repeatedly. Successful treatment of opiate dependent subjects with narcotic antagonists (cyclazocine and naloxone) provides support for this theory, and the basis for a useful therapy in this and other addictions (as amphetamine and alcohol) (presented with A. M. Freedman).

2) Convulsive Therapy: Recent modifications of convulsive therapy (unilateral convulsions, multiple monitored seizures, inhalant induced seizures) have focussed interest on the relation of memory change, altered brain function (EEG) and behavioral change (improvement). Unilateral induced seizures produce significantly less change in various memory tests, asymmetric EEG changes and equivalent behavioral changes to bilateral induced seizures. This dissociation of therapeutic and "side" effects allows multiple seizures to be given in one sitting - with therapeutic benefits. These observations are of interest to the theory of convulsive therapy and to the relation of brain function and tests of memory (both immediate short term and delayed).

I trust that either topic will interest the members.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

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