

July 25, 1970

Dr. Charles Socarides, M.D.
210 East 78 Street
New York City

Dear Dr. Socarides,

I thank you for your kind invitation to participate in a panel on the "Efficacy of Treatment of Narcotic Addiction" on February 2, 1971 at the New York Academy of Medicine. The subject is of importance and of keen interest to me and to my associates. Unfortunately, I have nothing positive to say about the treatment of addiction, since the results from other laboratories are unconvincing, and our own data, while promising, are incomplete. If the title or the focus were changed to a discussion of the approaches under study, then we would be willing to describe our unique approach, its scientific and theoretic basis, and the initial results (if we have them by that time). As you know, we are testing the theory of opiate dependence therapy based on de-conditioning using narcotic antagonists like cyclazocine and naloxone. This approach is rooted in experimental studies, chiefly from Lexington, in animals and man, and bears little resemblance to the emotional approaches usually described by the other workers listed in your letter.

With this caveat, and in the spirit of inquiry, I will be pleased to accept your invitation, if you choose to accept these remarks as descriptive of the presentation that we may make.

Again, my thanks for your invitation.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

P.S. The presentation will be based on the joint efforts of Professor Alfred Freedman, Dr. Richard Resnick, Dr. Arthur Zaks and myself.