

May 31, 1963

Dr. Cosimo Ajmone Marsan
N.I.N.D.B.
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Dr. Marsan:

Thank you for your letter of May 28, regarding the alphabetical-chronological ordering of references.

We understand the method you suggest, but hope you will concur with us in changing the method of ordering for this index. We believe the bibliography will be most useful if the serial publications of the senior author are listed strictly according to chronology. Our reason is that the continuation of an author's studies in a particular area is best followed if his publications are listed strictly chronologically. If, however, priority is given to the alphabetical order of his co-workers, the progressive nature of his work is not readily apparent.

We think this point is well illustrated by the author "Shagass", listed on the sample page we sent you and are returning with this letter. The progress in his development of a sedation and a sleep threshold is easily followed in our suggested ordering. Giving priority to an alphabetical listing does not appear to us to serve as useful a purpose to readers.

Of course, when one of the co-authors becomes a senior author, he is listed in his proper place in the alphabetical ordering. In the case of "Shagass", on the above-mentioned sample page, not one of his co-workers has published independently within the area of study covered by this bibliography. This serves to support our thesis that priority should be given to chronological order of senior author, rather than alphabetical-chronological order inclusive of co-authors, as you suggested.

We shall await your decision on this note, before we change the method of ordering we have followed.

Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M. D.
Director

MF:jr