

74SB-027SB

18 January 1974

George S. O'Brien, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Director
Scientific Division
Department of Clinical Research
Abbott Laboratories
14th and Sheridan Road
North Chicago, Illinois 60064

Dear George:

I regret that further clinical testing of Abbott 40174 has been suspended. As requested, I am returning the background materials on this compound.

When we first began our studies of cannabis in 1968, we had no idea that we would find this study as fascinating as it has turned out to be. The very low toxicity of the tetrahydrocannabinol molecule, combined with its high degree of CNS penetration, make it an ideal nucleus for the development of a short-acting, high-potency psychoactive compound. Our observations that tolerance development is very slow and of very low degree enhances our appreciation that the biological activity of compounds with this nucleus may be of extreme importance in clinical psychopharmacology. I hope that the programs at Abbott will continue, and I look forward to an opportunity to study these compounds, should they become available for Phase I testing.

My best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF/cis
Encls.
cc: Dr. A. S. Kulkarni