

*J. Fink*  
*78*

June 30, 1978

Gilbert Honigfeld, Ph.D.  
Sandoz, Inc.  
East Hanover, N.J. 07936

Dear Gil,

In 1971, when I first became acquainted with the pre-clinical data on mianserin, I found that the first human trial had been done in volunteers, and as part of a Ph.D. thesis, a young investigator had used the CFF procedure and had found a marked decrement in fusion threshold with low doses of mianserin. It was ~~this~~ data, more than any animal data, which led to the EEG trials and the finding that mianserin did, indeed, have a specific EEG profile. The rest is history.

Since 1973, I have included CFF data in every EEG study. So far, using rather simple procedures, we have been impressed that CFF rates change in a dose-related manner whenever we are studying active compounds. The mianserin data was published in our pharmacodynamic report in *Psychopharmacology* (54:249-254, 1977). We use a simple monocular fusion procedure with three determinations of the ascending and the descending flicker threshold, averaging the results of the six trials.

I was impressed with your elegant procedure and would like to replicate it. I am confident that active drugs will show their effects on the more sensitive procedures, like CFF, if they affect brain function. However, the determination can only be gross for classification purposes, since discriminations are only possible in two directions. But as another index for pharmacodynamic studies, we have been impressed.

The mianserin report is not yet done for NIMH. The data are derived largely from the 1977 meeting on mianserin held in Amsterdam in October and published as a supplement to *Brit. J. Clin. Pharm.*, supplement 1 to volume 5.

My regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry