

January 24, 1972

G. F. Blane, Ph.D.
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Dear Gary,

The Lord preserve us from the enthusiasms of children !

Your letter about the M5050 situation was most welcome, but the situation is murky, confused, disorganized, and typically American-- during the War, we described the situation as SNAFU.

To recapitulate: our laboratory became interested in the antagonists in 1967. We heard of diprenorphine and contacted you, as well as Lederle. They were uninterested-- you and we were. We proposed a study of the animal toxicology, prior to obtaining an IND to assess its activity in man. We requested funds of the New York State Commission, but were denied. We tried NIMH, the City of New York, and private donors-- and each felt that such trials were the expense of industry.

Last summer, we tried NIMH, and they were receptive, and hence the application which you read. Meanwhile, the White House appointed a brash, young man to head its program; and he asked for assistance from other brash young men, without experience. Nevertheless, when they called me some weeks ago, I shared the full file with them, for it is irrelevant to me who provides the support for the animal work. They called to ask how much material I had, how much would be needed, etc. I answered, openly, and offered the material in hand to start, and indicated that I would write you for additional material as needed.

Then, last week, Dr. Green told me that he had assumed full responsibility for the program; that he had called you; that there were the usual bureaucratic complications of the precedence of a U.S. grant to do the work of industry, and who would get the rights if the material was successful, etc. I suggested he review the massive contracts between the military and industry, and that he disregard the trivial amounts necessary here. But, he indicated, that I did not understand his many problems, etc.

Meanwhile, NIMH has indicated that they will fund the grant about the first of April; and the City of New York has indicated that they will fund the animal trials, if I guarantee that we would have enough material to do the clinical work thereafter (which I did); and Drs. Green, Jaffe, et al. are running about.

My reaction is similar to what it was last summer-- to take some holidays. I am off to Greece for the week, and hopefully, the various competing agencies will resolve their problems.

Our position is what it was two years ago-- we are prepared and interested in establishing the clinical efficacy, dosage range, toxicity, utility, and anything else that may be interesting of the antagonists in opiate dependent subjects. We are now embarked on essays of naloxone pamoate; have been promised l-cyclazocine next month; and BC 2605 in April. Should some agency provide the basis for an IND, we will do what we can-- and hopefully, R & C will make some material available for our studies at that time. Or, should I husband my present supply, and let NIMH, Green and Jaffe, and New York City obtain their supplies from you ?

Incidentally, in the usual disorganization of our government, we will probably get out funds, even if the toxicity is done at the military centers in the U.S.

I look forward to meeting John Lewis again. There may be some error, however, for I believe the Drug Dependence meetings are to be held in the late spring in Ann Arbor and not in February-- unless he is coming to a committee meeting and that is not open to the scientists in the field.

Keep well, and do what you must to secure your compound's study. While I would like to be its monitor, I do not see how I can ask it, for the forces about us are brash, and unsophisticated, and tend to assert their powers wherever and whenever they can.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry