

November 4, 1969

Dr. S. Clyde Strickland
Merck Sharpe & Dohme
West Point, Pennsylvania 19486

Dear Clyde,

Since 1966 we have been active in assessing various treatments in opiate dependence. Rather than relying on clinical criteria alone, we have developed the technique of progressive heroin challenges to determine the duration of methadone, cyclazocine, naloxone, and now centrophenoxine in treatment.

At the recent methadone conference I was reminded by Paul Blachly (Portland) and Jerome Jaffe (Chicago) that a long acting form of methadone has been resurrected from laboratory shelves for clinical trial. They suggested that Merck may make new supplies of the active forms of a long-acting methadone available for study.

Our recent studies indicate that presently available methadone is effective against 25 mg intravenous heroin (= \$15-25 street heroin) for 60 hours.

When such compounds are available for trial, it would be of interest to test them in this model.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF:kp

cc: A. M. Freedman

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