

May 26, 1965

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Dear John:

I want to tell you how much I appreciated your notes regarding our project. I believe you have captured the focus of our interests, and your recommendations were reviewed by Don Shapiro and myself. We found them very helpful, and our present program is directed much as you have suggested.

In the new unit, I believe we will shorten the stay of our patients. The stay for the trifluoperidol patients was unusually long because we were training our staff and testing our instruments. Also, we have only this week been able to achieve the relationship with the community that would permit us to have direct admissions to our unit. This may give us a more acutely ill and a more responsive population to complement our long stay patients.

Your suggestion that we use profile classification methods to select special samples of interest is a good one. We are now doing this using the BPRS. We have asked some of the psychiatrists at the State Hospital to recommend paranoid schizophrenics in whom we could check out the trifluoperidol problem as recommended by yourself and Leo. This will not eliminate the cross-over problem for all the patients in the State Hospital are receiving psychotropic drugs. It is only by selecting those patients whose symptoms are active and not controllable by their present medication, that we can plan to go from one drug to our experimental drugs. In most patients, I do believe we will need a drug washout period. It would be nice to be able to have the washout in the large hospital, but that staff is under-manned and they are very jittery about taking patients off medication. I am afraid that we will have to take most of the patients to our service and have the drug withdrawal period under our observation.

I understand that Jonathan Cole has planned a conference on "typologies" this Fall, and I look forward to seeing you at that meeting. Hopefully, we will have another occasion to meet and discuss our program.

Thank you once again for taking the time to share your thoughts with us. These have been very helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M. D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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