

March 29, 1971

Dr. Sherman Kupfer  
Associate Dean  
Mount Sinai School of Medicine  
Fifth Avenue and 100th St.  
New York, New York 10029

Dear Dr. Kupfer:

We have been asked by members of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine to make available samples of blood from patients receiving heroin in the course of their treatment for opiate dependence. We would like to cooperate with reputable scientists who may contribute to our understanding of the opiate dependence problem.

I would like to assure you that the study has been endorsed by the Research Committee of the New York Medical College, that it is undertaken in the facilities of the Department of Psychiatry either at the Metropolitan Hospital Medical Center or in our laboratories at 5 East 102nd Street; and that all precautions which we deem necessary for the protection of our patients have and will in the future, continue to be taken. The amount of heroin varies depending upon the need of the subject and design of the experiment. The amount varies from 5 to 75 mg i.v., usually given in 2cc of Saline within 1 minute.

At the time that Drs. Puszkin, Aledort and Gutfreund visited me, I approached the problem sympathetically, and accepted their credentials and sincerity, and assumed that their request was a simple one. In view of the complexity of the questions, perhaps we should ask the assurances of the appropriate authorities at your school that: the protocol has been approved by the appropriate committee of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine; and that any proposals sent to any third party in which we are named or referred to, receive the prior approval of our Department of Psychiatry Chairman, the Research Committee and Dean of our school.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

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