

1 February 1974

Health Research Council  
Room 1020  
125 Worth Street  
New York, New York 10013

Gentlemen:

I am writing on behalf of Dr. Rhea Dornbush, who is applying for a fellowship. I have known Dr. Dornbush since 1967, when she joined me in our ongoing studies of the effects of seizures on brain function, memory, and behavior. I have known her as both supervisor and coworker in our studies of cannabis.

Dr. Dornbush came to us unusually well qualified in studies of memory function. In our studies of convulsive therapy, she set up numerous auditory and visual tests, assessed the data, and provided the analyses which have been published.

During our association we became interested in the effects of cannabis on brain function. From 1969 to date, she has been the principal investigator in the cannabis studies at the New York Medical College in which we have assessed the EEG, memory, and behavioral effects of both acute and chronic administration of cannabis. Because of her expertise, Professor Freedman and I called upon her to assist us in the studies of "Chronic Hashish Users in Greece"--a contract established in 1970 by NIMH. In this study she was called upon to guide the organization of the study, relate to the scientists in Athens, provide for the collection of data, analyze the information, and prepare the extensive reports. This study program has just been summarized and submitted to NIMH, and in this summary the major effort was hers.

She is a highly intelligent and unusually well qualified research investigator. She writes well and is well liked by her coworkers and assistants. She is able to extract cooperation from the most difficult of patients and exhibits equanimity and a pleasant mood even under the most exasperating circumstances. Indeed, her diplomacy has frequently been put to use, both by Professor Freedman and myself, when we have found it necessary to relate to governmental agencies.

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As a coworker, Dr. Dornbush has made major contributions to our study programs. As a principal investigator, she has exhibited the drive, judgment, and enthusiasm necessary to accomplish the missions which she has set. She is experienced not only in experimental psychology, research design, and statistics, but also in the problems of human research.

I have no reservations in recommending her for the fellowship for which she is applying, and I know of no member of my staff who is better qualified than she.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

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