

April 9, 1970

Dr. Milton H. Joffe
Chief, Drug Sciences Division
United States Department of Justice
Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs
Washington, D.C. 20537

Dear Dr. Joffe:

There are two programs relating to substance abuse in the Division of Biological Psychiatry of this Department.

The study program "Quantitative EEG Studies in Psychopharmacology", partly supported by MH-13358 is dedicated to determining the relation of changes in brain function in psychiatric patients and volunteers in response to established and experimental psychoactive drugs. A summary of this work which has been continuous since 1954 was published in 1969 and reprints reflecting this experience are enclosed.

Our second program is dedicated to substance abuse, particularly opiates and alcohol. This program is largely supported by a contract with the New York State Narcotic Addiction Control Commission. The focus has been on determining the clinical efficacy of various psychoactive drugs in altering the drug dependent state. We have published our clinical results with methadone, cyclazocine, naloxone and tybamate.

Because of our interest in neurophysiology, we have applied the same techniques to our abuse studies and have reported the EEG changes with methadone, cyclazocine, and naloxone. Copies of these reports and some of the preprints are enclosed.

This program of research in substance abuse is now extended to alleged substances of abuse, notably marijuana, hashish and THC. While this work is unsupported, we are optimistic that the National Institute of Mental Health may look upon this work with favor.

Dr. Joffe

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One of the special issues which has interested us has been the pharmacology of heroin and methadone. We have utilized intravenous heroin as a "challenge" to the cross tolerance of methadone and the antagonism of cyclazocine and naloxone.

To put this program in its proper perspective, you should know that the principal investigator of some aspects of this program is the Chairman of this Department, Alfred M. Freedman, M.D. He is also co-director of the Center for Studies of Substance Abuse, another division of this Department, under the direction of Professor Richard Brotman, Ph.D.

I trust this information is helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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