

May 27, 1965

Dr. Samuel Gershon  
Missouri Institute of Psychiatry  
5400 Arsenal Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63139

Dear Sam:

On behalf of the Foundation, I wish to express satisfaction with your acknowledgment of the Foundation's support in the report "Ditran and its Antagonists in a mixed Psychiatric Population," which you indicate has been submitted for publication. I trust the acknowledgment will appear in the published text.

It is my recollection that much of the work in this project took place in the EEG laboratory utilizing the facilities and personnel supported, in part, by the grant "EEG and Human Psychopharmacology" (MH-07249). Insofar as the United States Public Health Service should be given credit for the support of these studies, your acknowledgment of the support of MH-07249 is also requested even though the EEG data may be published separately.

However, there is another aspect of this paper which is disturbing. The omission of acknowledgment of the Foundation's support may represent a lack of awareness of their valuable assistance in the Institute's programs and is easily corrected. The acknowledgment of the assistance of Dr. Sundland and Miss Ballou indicates that you did, or you and Dr. Neubauer did, consider the direct participation of other staff members. The lack of acknowledgment of participation by myself and by Turan Itil represents a more flagrant omission. (An omission which is duplicated in the extensive acknowledgments in the report submitted for publication as part of the Biological Psychiatry panel on "Anticholinergic Hallucinogens").

I would like to recall that the agreements which were part of your appointment to the Institute and which were implicit in the programs which were mutually developed during 1963 and 1964 have not been abrogated and are still operative. The contract is specifically still operative for work done jointly, as codified in the program described in MH-08597 (Antagonists to Anticholinergic Hallucinogens), and encompasses studies undertaken until the date. I voluntarily withdrew as co-investigator in the Fall of 1964 for the transfer to the University of Missouri. At the time of transfer I specifically indicated my desire to participate in the reports derived from studies prior to that date.

The work on Ditran and its antagonists was conceived and largely completed before Dr. Neubauer left in mid-October, 1964, and clearly falls in the category of participating studies.

May 27, 1965

I suggest the omission of acknowledgment of my part in this study represents a voluntary and willful breach of faith as well as a breach of courtesy. (While I cannot speak for Dr. Itil, the omission of acknowledgment of his participation may represent a similar willful disregard of his many contributions to the project.)

If this were a novel experience in your record, one might ascribe these omissions as reflections of childish pique and personal animosity. I recall, however, an exchange of letters on file in the Department between your previous employers and myself regarding similar actions in Australia. The repetition here, therefore, seems more a reflection of a lack of integrity than an isolated incident.

With this background, the omission of any agreed acknowledgment has prompted the following actions. Insofar as the report, "Ditran and its Antagonists in a Mixed Psychiatric Population" has been submitted for publication by Dr. Neubauer, I have written to him as senior author, requesting he correct the text by indicating the co-authorship of this program by Dr. Itil and myself, and by acknowledging the financial aid of the USPHS through grant MH-07249.

Secondly, I am writing this note to formally request that future reports dealing with studies clearly undertaken with the staff or the concepts codified in application MH-08579 during the period July 1963 to October 1964 be sent to me for my participation. If this is not acceptable, I am prepared to submit the details of our relationship to the Department Chairman and to the Dean for their comments.

I trust that you and Dr. Neubauer will correct the omissions in this report "Ditran and its Antagonists in a Mixed Psychiatric Population," and that the procedures outlined above will be followed in all subsequent reports derived from that study program.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M. D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

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