

November 22, 1971

Dr. Donald J. Jender
Department of Pharmacology
UCLA School of Medicine
Los Angeles, California 90024

Dear Dr. Jender:

I was pleased to hear of your work and the techniques for measuring low levels of acetylcholine, at the NIMH meeting Friday. Some years ago, in studying the electroshock process, the specificity of anticholinergic drugs in reversing the ECT effect led me to postulate an elevation of acetylcholine as important to this effect. We attempted some measures of CSF acetylcholine, but our results were unreliable. Recently, I approached the problem again, and sent some fluids to Walter Essman at Queen's College, New York, but he was able to measure other constituents, not acetylcholine.

Are the techniques you describe suitable for CSF? Is there a way of stabilizing CSF-acetylcholine so that samples could be shipped? Would your laboratory be interested in some samples of CSF in monkeys and man, before and following seizures, to test the hypothesis that acetylcholine elevation occurs and persists post-ECT?

I am enclosing a copy of my 1966 report, and should appreciate any relevant citations from your laboratory.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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