

VA - Mautson

December 20, 1968

Dr. Leon Rackow  
Franklin D. Roosevelt Hospital  
Montrose, New York

Dear Dr. Rackow,

Dr. Roubicek and I wish to thank you for the splendid welcome and interesting visit that we had last week. I have also received the notes you sent and have read these before sending them on to Dr. Freedman.

The opportunity for research at your hospital are indeed bright and I will encourage Dr. Freedman to establish the relationship which will permit members of this staff to participate in the special programs which the VA has established. In reading the reports, I was most interested that half the patients were under 44 years of age and that of these, half remained less than two weeks, suggesting that the population is more acute than was initially represented.

Again, our thanks for your enthusiasm and I trust Dr. Freedman and the staff here will have an occasion to discuss this visit soon.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

F: VAH  
Mantone

December 15, 1968

To: Dr. A. M. Freedman, Chairman

From: Max Fink, M.D.

Subject: Visit to VA Hospital, Montrose, December 11, 1968

At your suggestion, I visited Montrose VA and was received enthusiastically by the Director, Dr. Rackow. Dr. Roubicek accompanied me on the visit. We met two of his associates and visited the research facilities in experimental psychology and chemistry, and the projected space for additional research programs. Dr. Rackow was most enthusiastic, cordial and cooperative.

The hospital is at least 1 hour from our present facility. It is a typical chronic care institution with the majority patients in residence for more than a decade. Schizophrenia is the principal diagnosis, but alcoholism, brain damage and psychopathy are frequent. Depressive states are rare.

Dr. Rackow has no resident physicians and is unhappy with the present Dean's Committee which has emphasized commitments elsewhere in preference to his institution. He asks that a research and/or training relationship be established, and anticipating the move to Westchester asks if it could be done now.

Advantages: The VA has funds and has shown a flexibility in other centers that is greater than other chronic care institutions. The center can provide funds, space and chronic mentally ill for a large scale research and training situation, especially in research methodology.

Dr. Rackow is enthusiastic and cooperative.

Disadvantages: Distance from the present site is the principal drawback. All the advantages of the VA center can be provided by Manhattan State Hospital, if the Director of that hospital could be convinced of the merit of cooperating as Dr. Rackow sees it.

Employees recommended to the VA would have to sign loyalty oaths, and non-citizens are not permitted on the preserve in any official capacity.

Recommendations:

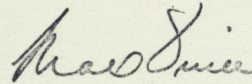
If an American citizen of high academic stature could be found, interested in developing the research or teaching program, the opportunity would be of importance as both a source of salary supplementation of senior staff, of patient populations for research, and of much needed laboratory space.

The same could be developed more cheaply, with less travel restrictions, and with less dependence on citizenship, in the state services. If we need such a facility (and we do) I would urge another effort at developing the relationship at Manhattan

State Hospital; and if that fails, reconsider discussions with Dr. Rackow.

(Note: Dr. Rackow will need a proposal and candidates for VA funds by early spring for funding in 1969-1970)

(Note 2: Dr. H. C. Denber has volunteered to allow the use of his ward for the students and residents, and would consider expanding his facility under your auspices. This solution would not allow for our staff to write orders and treat patients directly unless Dr. Diamond agrees specifically).



Max Fink, M.D.