

March 5, 1971

Prof. H. M. van Praag  
Algemeen Provinciaal, Stads -  
En Academisch Ziekenhuis  
Psychiatrische Kliniek  
Groningen, Oostersingel 59  
The Netherlands

Dear Professor van Praag:

During the past few months we have participated in a number of marijuana sessions. I am enclosing two lists - the participants in the December meeting in Puerto Rico, and the program for the New York Academy of Sciences in May 1971.

For human pharmacology, the names are Don Jasinski and Harris Isbell, Leo Hollister, Reese Jones and Roger Meyer. Isbell and Jasinski have done the best work, published, and may not have new data. Jasinski is a younger worker with much enthusiasm and a reasonably good speaker. Hollister is more flamboyant, has done more varied studies, usually with less controls. Jones is less experienced, and has done a few studies with limited control data. Roger Meyer is the least experienced, but is enthusiastic and knows the data.

For animal pharmacology of cannabis and THC, Louis Harris, Edward Truitt and Constantine Miras come to mind. Truitt is smooth, efficient and very opinionated. He has unusual data. Harris is a good speaker, excellent pharmacologist and widely experienced. He has done extensive studies in the narcotic antagonists. Miras (Greece), is a very flamboyant, egocentric, hypomanic experimenter. He grows his own plants; extracts; radiates; and does extensive pharmacology and toxicology, mostly uncontrolled.

For chemistry, the names are Mechoulam, Korte (Germany) and Miras (Greece). The other names are Pars and Wall - both recent experimenters. Mechoulam has the best reputation, but I have never heard him. I like his written work. I do not know the others.

For sociological aspects, I would agree with Cole, that the obvious choice is McGlothlin. I would add Goode and Brotman for your consideration.

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For neurophysiology, there is little and the choice is restricted. R. Jones has evoked potential data; E. Rodin (Lafayette Clinic, Detroit) and E. Domino have published some EEG data, but have no recent material; and our laboratory has done some work.

If I were to recommend speakers who have a broad experience, which may suit your purposes (as I understand them), and about whom I know something, I would list:

Donald Jasinski	or Harris Isbell
Leo Hollister	
Louis Harris	or Edward Truitt
Raphael Mechoulam	or Constantine Miras
Wm. McGlothlin	or Eric Goode

From my own laboratory, I would be pleased to report on our EEG studies; relate these to changes in memory and task performance, and describe our trials of chronic marijuana use. If you wish a specific neurophysiology review, you may consider Dr. Jan Volavka of my staff, who has supervised all the records and read all the reports.

Incidentally, Professor Saleminck of Utrecht visited my laboratory last year. His knowledge of the chemistry of cannabis was impressive and you may wish his opinion or participation.

The Chief of the NIMH Center for Studies of Narcotic Drug Abuse, Dr. Robert Petersen, is the principal officer supervising the national effort in cannabis research. He recently formulated the report to the Congress from the Secretary, DHEW - "Marihuana and Health" (dated January 31, 1971). This report is balanced, and thorough, is more succinct than earlier statements, and includes descriptions of ongoing research. It may be useful to invite his opinion about U.S. investigators; and, to consider inviting him to present a report of the ongoing research, results and programs, to supplement your other speakers.

In trying to be responsive, I find that I was lengthy. Please accept these notes as a contribution to the development of a satisfactory program. My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

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