

October 9, 1971

Prof. Alfred M. Freedman  
Chairman, Department of Psychiatry  
New York Medical College

Dear Al:

The following notes are written in response to your request for information as to my relationship with L. Bucci, M.D.

I first met Luigi when he applied for an appointment to the Department, and his interest in psychotropic drugs allowed me to request his appointment to my division.

His first assignment was an evaluation of the duration and potency of fluphenazine enanthate compared with oral fluphenazine; and this later was augmented by a comparison with fluphenazine decanoate. As is our custom, we established a protocol for the admission of patients to the program, their supervision and ratings, and the types of evaluations required. Most critical in such evaluations, is the administration of the proposed dosages for the proposed lengths of time, with the physician allowed to use his judgment in each case as to the proper dosage to be deployed. From the very outset, Luigi had more difficulty than two other therapists (Maria Fuchs and Jovan Simeon) in carrying out the protocol. The dosages were more variable than that of the other physicians; there were repeated supplementations with other drugs, particularly MAO inhibitors (despite proscription in the protocol); and the records were maintained in an idiosyncratic method.

Laboratory tests were not requested as required, and at various times, the duration of treatment was sufficiently altered that the drug trial took many more months than we had anticipated.

At the end of the experiment, we noted that the evaluation of secondary effects for Dr. Bucci's patients was at least two times that of the other physicians. On examining the records and the available cases, we noted a marked discrepancy between the evaluation criteria he used, and those of the rest of the staff. After considerable review, I concluded that the idiosyncratic nature of his judgments was sufficiently different than

my experience to preclude his usefulness in the research programs of the Division of Biological Psychiatry.

His opinions with regard to the treatment of psychotic patients with MAO inhibitors are based on studies which he has published. I have read two of these reports, and recall that they failed to satisfy my criteria for an academic report-- they were deficient both in controls and in independent evaluations.

In addition, I am attaching a xerox copy of a report which he published from the work at Metropolitan Hospital. I do not recall seeing the protocol filed or approved, and I suspect that this study was done contrary to the rules of the school. This, despite, my urging him to file the necessary documents before a study is contemplated, particularly one that is as unique as this one.

On the positive side, I would recall to your attention his enthusiasm for teaching and particularly his drive to assert the position of psychopharmacologist to the Department. There was a distinct dissociation between his enthusiasm and his ability, and for this reason, I requested his transfer from the research divisions and failed to support his request for promotion.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry