

December 2, 1969

Miss Eleanor Carroll
Executive Secretary, Review Committee
Center for Studies of Narcotic & Drug Abuse
National Institute of Mental Health
5454 Wisconsin Ave.
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

Dear Miss Carroll:

We are pleased to report on the present status of the program "Pharmacotherapy of Narcotic Addiction", MH-12567. The project was supported for two years, ending in May 1968. The funds were used to establish our study programs in cyclazocine, naloxone and methadone, and particularly to equip our EEG laboratory at Metropolitan Hospital. Based on our initial experience we were able, and have continued on an annual basis, to obtain support for this program from the New York State Narcotic Addiction Control Commission. It is important to note that the early funds from the Commission were severely restricted as to the purposes for which they could be expended, being limited to personal services only. The Federal funds were instrumental in providing the equipment, not only for the laboratory, but for the offices and recreational needs of the study unit.

The staff now operates on an annual budget of more than \$220,000. There have been many studies completed, notably in the clinical assessment of cyclazocine and its application in the therapy of depression; the neurophysiology of methadone, cyclazocine and heroin; the clinical use of tybamate, and lately our focus has been on naloxone. There have been many publications, and copies of the more relevant are enclosed. Support of the NIMH has been cited in each.

Based on these experiences, we are convinced that the antagonist therapy for opiate dependence is feasible and safe; have recommended that naloxone in a silastic vehicle provides the best single hope for this problem today; and have defined some of the neurophysiological parameters of opiate dependence and the antagonists.

Miss Carroll

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We are also pleased to report that these experiences have given us the basis for our interest in studies of cannabis, and led to our proposal of a cannabis study program at the New York Medical College (MH-18245) and one in Athens with Professors Miras and Stefanis.

I trust these comments are helpful, and the enclosed reports useful.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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