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Jon F. Heiser, M.D.
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Dear Jon:

While I am sanguine about my ability to identify projects and issues which are currently of national significance, I am sorry if I suggested that I could predict the behavior of national funding committees. Such committees are now made up of representatives of the laity and minority groups and no longer need be the best in our society, nor the most rational. Hence, my hesitation in even suggesting that I (or anyone) could predict their behavior, which often is formed by such issues as geography, color, "old-boy syndrome", etc.

If you ask whether there are target issues of high priority which should be fundable, try the following.

1) How can one predict the responsive from non-responsive patient to

- (a) antidepressants
- (b) lithium
- (c) EST (How to predict the end point of EST)

2) Do women respond differently than men to drug therapy? To EST? Are women treated differently than men by psychiatrists? Are the distinctions justified by biology? If yes, by what biological differences?

3) What is the efficacy and safety of MAOI? In what conditions are these useful? What is their relative merit against other treatments? Is there any truth in the legendary statements of toxicity of MAOI?

4) Are there any clues to a genotypic diagnosis (clarification) system? For example, under what conditions does the sedative threshold predict course and therapeutic result?

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Dr. Jon F. Heiser

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These are some critical, general issues that could sustain a research project without getting involved with technical issues of chemistry or electrophysiology.

Good luck.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.

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