

April 19, 1965

Dr. Fini Schulsinger
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Dear Fini:

In your last letter you indicated that you had discussed with Seymour Kety the possibility of EEG records being made in your study of children of schizophrenic mothers. When you indicated that he thought this might be an expensive addition to your program, I was puzzled since I am under the impression that he would support such a collaboration.

I had the opportunity last week to discuss another problem with Dr. Kety and took the opportunity to ask him about his recommendation. He indicated, as I also believe, that your study is a unique opportunity to obtain prospective data which may support or refute some of the hypotheses regarding the etiology of schizophrenia. Precisely because of its unique nature, you have sought for predictors which may help you. I indicated to him and I believe you are aware of the literature that injury in brain function may occur early and may be an important determinant in the schizophrenic process. If such a hypothesis has any merit, the collection of EEG records if done carefully, would provide a unique and special opportunity and any effort that is reasonable should be made to collect such data. I believe that Dr. Kety would concur in this opinion, modifying it only insofar as he would want to be assured that you had a reliable consultant whose experience in electroencephalography was sufficient to make his analyses credible.

Secondly, since your study is very large, going to the Federal Government for additional support for a large amount of EEG equipment may not be warranted, and in this opinion I would concur.

I would like to suggest that if the recording of EEG signals can be included as part of your study, it would have considerable merit regardless of whether the findings do or do not show differences in the study and control populations. Insofar as I have been interested in this subject for some years, I would be pleased to collaborate with you. I would also assure you that if the records are well prepared, I will enlist the support of other senior electroencephalographers and psychiatrists in a review of the records before the data is returned to you for the correlations that will have to be done with your clinical findings.

While the study might be carried out with very expensive equipment such as new EEG recorders, and tape recorders so that we can do the quantitative analysis here, I believe a very modest program would suffice. I believe you already have an Offner dynograph.

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While it would be advisable to have four EEG preamplifiers, I believe that two would be sufficient for the program. A minimum effort would be to record EEG signals in your children under set conditions which I can detail if you wish, and that the paper records be made the minimum. Analyses can be done visually and there are a variety of hand quantifying methods which are available and which can do as well as electronic devices although much more slowly.

If, in addition, you wished to avail yourself of the latest electronic gadgetry, then a small FM tape recorder would be required. The American models can be purchased for prices under \$4,000.00, and I believe that if this sum is too great an addition to your budget, it should be possible to obtain such a recorder elsewhere than from NIH.

My own contact with Dr. Mednick was the talks that he gave in St. Louis some months ago. It is quite possible that he knows electroencephalographers who have greater experience than my own and whose interest in this project would be greater. In that event, I would urge you to enlist their support for what may be an important addition to your program. If you wish, however, to enlist the support of this laboratory I can assure you that we will do everything possible to provide the analyses either of the tape or of the paper records at no additional cost to your program. I think you should anticipate only those costs inherent in the initial equipment, and the costs of recording including those of paper, magnetic tape and the technicians services.

I am taking the liberty of sending a carbon of this letter to Dr. Kety, because I believe that this project is an important one and because I think that he has been your guide through the maze of the grants programs.

Last week I sent in my registrations for the International EEG Meetings in Vienna during the first week of September. I hope that I can arrange to visit you either on the way to Vienna or on my return in the third week in September. I will write to you again in a few weeks once my trip schedule is made clear. My best regards to Hanne.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M. D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF:kp

cc: Dr. Seymour Kety