

19 March 1974

Isaac Marks, M.D.
Institute of Psychiatry
de Crespigny Park
Denmark Hill
London SE5 8AF
ENGLAND

Dear Dr. Marks:

First, let me thank you for your participation in the APPA meetings. Your contribution was very helpful, and I trust that you enjoyed the sessions as much as I did.

I have read the proposed research program entitled "Therapeutic Studies of Resistant Neuroses."

The proposal is an ambitious one and should make significant contributions to the treatment of these complex problems. From the point of view of psychopharmacology, I can see no inherent rationale for the study of clomipramine. From the evidence available to me, this is an active thymoleptic, probably indistinguishable from imipramine. The study will define the efficacy of this compound and will surely justify the investment.

From the point of view of neurophysiology, I believe that you would be in a much stronger position to define the role of the pharmacologic agent in the treatment process if you could specify that brain changes did or did not occur, the degree to which the changes were sustained, and the relation to the treatment course. As I indicated in my lecture, I believe that there is a good relationship between behavioral changes and neurophysiologic effects in ECT, and with psychoactive drugs. Should you be able to record EEG signals in a systematic way, under reasonably well-controlled conditions, your electroencephalographer could quantify the EEG changes and provide you with an independent measure of drug effect.

I. Marks, M.D.

-2-

19 March 1974

Should you not have facilities available at Denmark Hill, we would be glad to cooperate and provide you with quantification of tapes; if these are collected in a systematic way, under conditions which permit us to make the measurement. To collaborate with this laboratory would require that you have a tape system compatible with ours, amplifiers which are of reasonably high quality, and a technician who understands the presentation of EEG data for quantitative measurement. There are two technicians in the London area and, should you be interested, I can arrange for your technician to be supervised by either of these units which now are cooperating with us.

During the past year, I have become particularly interested in the psychoactive properties of a tetracyclic compound, mianserin (GB-94), produced by N. V. Organon in Holland. We believe that mianserin is more rapidly active than amitriptyline, with fewer sedative and anticholinergic effects. Should you be interested in using this compound rather than another in your experiment, I would be glad to propose to the pharmacologists at Organon that they consider providing you with such equipment as may be useful for a collaboration.

I hope your weeks in Israel are fruitful.

My best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF/cis
Encl.