

March 22, 1971

Mr. C. C. Elsesser  
Research Manager  
Jello Division  
General Foods Corporation  
White Plains, New York

Dear Mr. Elsesser:

In regard to the conversation I had with Mr. Fox on Wednesday, March 17, 1971, I would like to clarify the situation regarding naloxone. Mr. Fox was apprehensive about the General Foods Corporation having naloxone in its possession since naloxone is officially listed as a Class A narcotic.

On March 17, 1971, I contacted Mr. Costerello, (212 349-8030) Chief of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs of the Justice Department for the New York area. Mr. Costerello was informed of the situation and stated there would be no difficulty in the General Foods Corporation having naloxone in its possession. He stated that the corporation would be acting as the agent of the Department of Psychiatry of the New York Medical College.

This is an unusual situation because naloxone is not a narcotic in the pharmacologic sense. It has no abuse potential, and has no resale value. The Justice Department, represented by Mr. Costerello, is perfectly aware of the situation, and has given assurance that there will be no legal problem as far as the corporation possessing this agent. In fact, the Narcotic Addiction Control Commission, the National Institute of Mental Health and the Justice Department are concerned about exploring the use of narcotic antagonists in the treatment of opiate dependence. We, along with these agencies, would be most appreciative if you would make available your technical skill in making this drug palatable.

This research is supported by the National Institute of Mental Health, Grant No. MH-18172 and the New York State Narcotic Addiction Control Commission, Contract No. C44116. The New York Medical College holds a narcotic registry #42291 Class 4 & 5.

Mr. Elsesser

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It is because of the rapidly increasing problem of narcotic addiction that research in this area has become imperative. The technical knowledge of your company would be a valuable service to the community. It would allow research to progress in one of the promising avenues of treatment of this urgent public health problem.

We hope to hear from you shortly in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

Arthur M. Zaks, M.D.  
Instructor in Psychiatry

MF:kt

cc: Mr. R. Y. Fox  
Law Department