

March 1, 1971

Mr. Jeffrey E. Donfeld
Staff Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Donfeld:

It was kind of you to take the time to encourage our research in the narcotic antagonists, and we are most grateful. Dr. Freedman has sent you reprints of our recent reports.

There is a need for a more intense effort to develop a formulation of an antagonist effective for prolonged periods, in the order of weeks to months. With the support of the New York State Narcotic Addiction Control Commission, we have let one contract for such a development with Food and Drug Research Laboratories of Maspeth, New York. We are aware of parallel studies by Endo Laboratories of Long Island, and by Seymour Yolles of the University of Delaware. Considering the magnitude of the addiction problem, perhaps more efforts could be encouraged in the hope of a more rapid solution to this technical problem.

In support of this effort, there are two steps which your office could consider. In the fall of 1969, we requested contract support from the NIMH for developing a silastic vehicle and were told that the available free funds were committed and no contract funds were available. In part, this was related to the interpretation that available funds were designated for methadone delivery systems. Perhaps, in the next HEW appropriation requests, the funds considered for addiction treatment and research could be designated for "biological therapy of opiate dependence" or other broad designation, thus allowing the appropriate NIMH committees to support those requests which may be available.

As a more direct effort, perhaps your office would be able to review the logic of the development of a long-acting antagonist, and if you found the logic as compelling as we find it, you could bring this to the attention of the Secretary, HEW or the Director, NIMH.

Again, my thanks for your encouragement.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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