

February 23, 1969

Dr. Richard Wittenborn
Secretary, ACNP
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Dear Dick,

I am writing in response to your inquiry concerning the size of the ACNP. I have been among those who has asked that the membership limits be raised, and did so at the time the Membership Committee was reporting the availability of more qualified candidates than the by-laws allowed for election.

An artificial size of the membership serves little purpose, in my view, except as a guideline for the Membership Committee. I would prefer that the Committee be empowered to recommend as many members as are qualified, raising the maximum every few years on the recommendation of the chairman of the committee. A useful procedure would be a triennial review of the membership list to ask for the resignation of those who have failed to participate in our sessions for a minimum number of meetings.

The Scientific Associate category has always seemed to me to be a distinction without a difference, and one that lends itself to second class feelings. If one must have such a class, let us have many so that they will feel part of the organization.

With these views in mind, I hesitate to answer the inquiry directly, without the explanations above. Please feel free to share these opinions with Council members.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry