

September 24, 1968

Dr. Arnold J. Mandell  
Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior  
College of Medicine at Irvine  
Irvine, California

Dear Dr. Mandell:

Thank you for your kind invitation to present a report of our current electrophysiologic work in relation to psychopathological states. I very much agree with your mission of honoring Bob Heath for his stimulating work in schizophrenia, and I would like to participate.

The most relevant problem is the repeated observation of differences in EEG response to barbiturates (sedation threshold and pentothal threshold) among different populations. The 1961 suggestion that unresponsive schizophrenic patients show their lack of response to most psychoactive agents by a lack of response to injected pentothal has been under investigation in Missouri and New York since 1963. The methods of analysis of the EEG have turned out to be more complex than we first anticipated, so that the real data available today is still meager. Nevertheless, if the Program Committee wishes, we would be pleased to review the problem of responsivity to barbiturates as an index of dysfunction (altered function) of the central nervous system in severe psychosis. We can present the recent mathematical models for responsivity and summarize our recent experiences in a therapy resistant study in St. Louis.

A provisional title: Present Status of the Cerebral Reactivity Model in Schizophrenia. The report will be written by Dr. Turan Itil and myself.

Again, my thanks for your kind invitation.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

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