

February 25, 1971

Dr. Peter Crown
Medische Faculteit Rotterdam
Dr. Molewaterplein 50
Postbus 1738
Rotterdam, Holland

Dear Dr. Crown,

The studies in the Division are focussed on clinical problems and clinical populations. The major sources of our funds are in support of clinical treatment of in-patients at Metropolitan Hospital (studies of ECT; new drugs in anxiety, depression and schizophrenia); the treatment of opiate dependent subjects (antagonists in opiate dependence; methadone, heroin); and research programs in the clinical pharmacology of cannabis, the quantitative assessment of EEG in man and the EEG effects of opiates.

Our method of operation can best be described as collaborative, focussed research, designed by a project leader in association with other participants. Projects are usually described in writing; critiqued; and if approved by the Division, sent on for school approval. There is a hierarchical structure in this Division and promotion is as rapid as the studies and energy expended warrant.

You should know that the Department Chairman is actively interested in biological psychiatry and is the principal investigator of the narcotic antagonist and cannabis studies.

The EEG programs are integral to almost all our studies and these are supervised by Dr. Jan Volavka and myself. In your initial assignment I would ask you to assist him in his projects. Right now his principal work is the analysis of the ECT and methadone/heroin data. The studies of marijuana effects on EEG and behavior are in the data collection phase, and the next ECT/memory and chronic marijuana studies will begin data collection in March/April.

Our EEG work is concentrated on the ongoing signal; we are not planning any averaged evoked potential studies.

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Most of our space is used for laboratories and our office facilities are very crowded. But we have learned to adapt for there is a new facility with adequate space that was due for completion the summer of 1970, and now should be available the winter 1971-72.

There are a reasonable number of research assistants, technicians, computer console operators; and funds for equipment and supplies are adequate. Travel funds are virtually non-existent, except on invitation, and these are fairly frequent. Secretarial services are also restricted, so that most of us do our own typing (except for final reports). Calculators, typewriters, computer time, library facilities and copy facilities are freely available. Our teaching commitments are minimal and the Ph.D. staff devote 99% of their time to research.

As my associates will tell you, it is neither the best and far from the worst of laboratories. Your "progress" will depend on your energy and productivity on one hand, and on the rate which we meet our short-term goals.

I trust you will join us and will find the same satisfaction in the work that we have found. If you have some more specific questions about the EEG work I suggest you address them to Dr. Volavka. If you have some questions about our organization or attitudes, you may wish to write to Stanley Feldstein, Ph.D., Associate Professor, and project leader in clinical cannabis studies; or Rhea Dornbush, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and a project leader in ECT/memory and cannabis projects.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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