

December 28, 1965

Dr. Necmettin Polvan
Lamartin Cad. Burun Apt. 17/1
Taksim - Talimhane
Istanbul, Turkey

Dear Dr. Polvan:

I regret very much the unusual complications with Dr. Crane. It was our hope that he would be able to make a site visit and provide a visual image of your facilities. However, since there are now very heavy restrictions in NIMH grant awards because of the commitments of the war in Viet Nam, I believe the best strategy would be to undertake a pilot study using such funds as you may have available and attempt to obtain some small support from pharmaceutical houses. It should be possible to select compounds which are still of interest to various drug companies so that they may make the drugs available at no cost.

In your letter you raised three questions. The first, relates to the testing of new compounds in untreated schizophrenic patients. This is a very important question and if you were interested in undertaking studies of butaperazine, for example, this study would be very helpful in answering questions which are puzzling today. This compound is already accepted in Europe. If, however, you were interested in testing "new" compounds, there are many that have been recently proposed which we are studying here. Parallel investigations undertaken in your facility and in ours of such compounds as thiothixene (Pfizer) or the long acting fluphenazine enanthate (Squibb) would both be supportable studies.

The second question, whether schizophrenia is reversable, is a very important one. However, it does not lend itself to an early simple answer. If we are anxious to obtain support at some future time, it would be more helpful to undertake a study of shorter duration.

Your third question, of activating chronic schizophrenia by hallucinogenic drugs, is a study which also has much merit. However, we have many chronic schizophrenic patients treated

for long periods available and such studies are now in progress here. If you could undertake two programs - the study of new drugs in untreated schizophrenics and a second study - then such activation projects would be of merit. Perhaps they should be planned in a fashion parallel to our present projects.

While you ask these three questions, may I pose a fourth? What are the effects of new drugs in untreated depressive cases? Is there a difference in treatment results between psychotropic drugs and ECT in untreated depressives? These two questions concerning untreated depressives parallel the questions asked in the drug and schizophrenia study. The results of these studies would be of help in substantiating the value of such a study unit in Istanbul.

If any of these projects interest you, we would be pleased to assist in planning the protocol and working out the details in the next few weeks.

Thank you very much for your kind regards for the New Year. Please accept my best wishes for you and your wife for a Happy and Prosperous 1966.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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