

October 23, 1965

Professor P. B. Bradley
The Medical School
Birmingham 15, England

Dear Philip:

I had planned to be at the meetings in Nuremberg and so held up answering your letter in the hope that we could discuss this together. Unfortunately, I was unable to make the trip at the last moment and so must send you this letter which is a poor substitute for an adequate review of this symposium.

First, I agree that we have names enough from which to choose the invited participants. In reading your notes, I know little of Hoffmeister, Kreiskott or Herz. I would accept your recommendation of Herz but have little else to go on. I have read many of the publications from Votava's group and have become impressed that they have done much in the past few years and their representation might be more extensive than one speaker. I concur in your comments regarding Giarman. I have had the opportunity to speak to Harold Himwich on another matter and raised the question of whether he would be willing to participate. He said he would and while this does not imply a commitment, I believe that his experience is extensive and he is an active participant in any discussion. For this reason, I wonder if we could not include both him and Longo, even though they both have similar interests.

The suggestion of Ed Domino is agreeable.

I do not know whether Ostfeld has done work recently, but will call him if you think that we need an additional clinical representation and can then make a judgement after discussing this with him.

When I knew that I was unable to come to Nuremberg, we called Professor Flügel since he had been kind enough to extend an invitation to both Dr. Itil and myself. As part of the discussion I inquired whether he would be coming to Washington and he said that he would. Since Bente is already preoccupied with other parts of the program, I believe that Professor Flügel would be the logical participant.

Before coming to specific recommendations I would like to add an additional name to the list. While in Vienna I had the opportunity to spend some time with Madame Verdeaux who told me of the studies which she had completed of atropine and Ditran with implanted electrodes in freely moving cats. She described no dissociation between EEG and behavior in these animals, indicating that when the drugs had an effect on the electrical activity, the behavior of the animals were modified. Within the last ten days, the latest issue of *International Journal of Neuropharmacology* (Volume 4: 265-272) presents a report from her group. If the discussion is to focus on this dissociation problem, I believe we should add her name or one of her associates to the list of invited participants.

In any symposium of this kind, it is often difficult to try to set the limits of the presentation for a participant. I believe the title that you have suggested is sufficiently descriptive of the focus that we would like to set. Rather than describing the program in four sections as you have outlined perhaps we should invite the speakers indicating the focus implicit in the title. We can ask the invitees if they would be willing to participate and if they would send us a few sentences describing their studies in this area. With the letters in hand and our knowledge of their past reports, we could then group the studies according to their content.

1. Attached is a list of names in three sections. I believe the first group are those in whom we both concur. The second group are those who would provide the major back-up. The third group are those about whom I have insufficient information to make a recommendation, but will abide by your decision in any instance.

2. To extend the invitation is no problem for me, and I will be pleased to do so if you are able to simplify my problems by providing me with the addresses of those on the list marked with (address ?).

3. Having reviewed the literature carefully during the past few months I find that there is no adequate summary of the problem of anticholinergics and behavior in animals and man. For this reason, and once having the expense of bringing so many foreign and American investigators together, might it not be appropriate to attempt the publication of these proceedings separate from the usual C.I.N.P. volume? The problems that you have faced with the Birmingham volume has acute overtones for my laboratory and as I am sure Bente has told you, we are sorely disappointed that all three publications from St. Louis were found unacceptable and that this information was not brought to our attention until fully a year after the meeting.

If publication of a symposium report is a reasonable suggestion, this should be indicated in the letter of invitation.

4. If many European workers participate in this symposium, I believe it would be important that translations be made available for as many sessions as possible. Perhaps you could make this wish known to the planning committee when and if the C.I.N.P. executives get together.

My best regards, and I trust this letter finds you well.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF:kp

P.S. Benasova has a few articles on anticholinergic mechanisms as predictors of antidepressant action and that this is not reviewed by Votava. He can be an alternate. Also, Vitak who has worked with Vojtechovsky is now in the United States with Nate Kline and could present some of the material if Vojtechovsky cannot come.