

March 9, 1985

Mr. Peter Irwin
Medical Research Department
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Hanover, New Jersey

Dear Peter,

I read the article by Glassman et al. and react much as you did. There is as much evidence that drowsiness was the active component in the effects on craving as that a specific biochemical process was responsible. But it seems difficult to attack the conclusions based on these data alone. I seem to recall that our subjects, given clonidine, also had a significant degree of drowsiness, as did our subjects when given higher doses of diazepam and bromazepam. Also, the time course of our experience would be applicable.

In order to do justice to a critique of this report, I think we would have to extract some of our own data, see if they are relevant, and make a more compelling case than your argument. The dependence on the PDR does not have much cachet; indeed, it is not considered a reliable source of scientific information, being seen as a negotiated average of sentiments between legal partisans from industry and less-than-competent administrative bureaucrats. Such an argument may have place in the board-rooms of industry or the law courts, but hardly in SCIENCE.

I am so busy with convulsive therapy, that Glassman's peccadillos and the pseudo-science of SCIENCE influence me little.

The historical paper which I wrote for IPEG in memory of Bente has been published. I enclose a copy for your bulletin-board.

The IBM 1800 is acting up again, and I am getting desparate to end it all, either by decapitating the machine and chucking all the work, or by replacing it with the HZI IBM-AT based system. I am visiting HZI next week to see if there is some fire where there has been Itil-smoke for so long.

Meanwhile, Itil has convinced Hoffmann-La Roche that he can distinguish among three formulations of Valium; they have petitioned the FDA to change the rules on generics and look-alikes by requiring pharmacodynamic equivalence as well as pharmacokinetic and chemical dissolution equivalence. The petition went in two weeks ago; you can read all about it in the pink sheets. If the FDA is convinced and changes the regulations, industry will need our pharmaco-EEG studies as much as they needed the sleep-EEG studies when the FDA accepted such studies as evidence of soporific activity. If the FDA acts favorably, I will get my new AT system; and you could go into business for yourself with little investment.

Keep the faith. My best regards.

Sincerely yours,