

November 1, 1983

Mr. Peter Irwin
Im Hirsholm 46
4125 Riehen
Switzerland

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter of October 19. Receipt of the enclosed reprint request stimulates me to answer today, and to bring you up to date with happenings in New York.

Vojta called to invite me for dinner at his home, and then told me that his large grant to study EEG's in prisoners was hung up in a political argument -- whether biological studies of criminality were warranted since 'everyone knows that criminality is socially determined'. When he called me initially about computer use, I encouraged him to use our system if he wished. I gave him the same caveat, that IBM may stop support when we may need it most. (I did not demur as to its use -- so long as it is functioning, I am pleased to have it used, with charges consistent with the real expenses, usually nominal.) He told me that he had this large grant and I suggested that, if the funds were available, he might wish to get the type of system that you, John Pavel, and Don had recommended to me. By writing his own programs, he should be able to get the outputs that would optimize any findings.

Your comments about the Neurometrics machine are consistent with my own image of it, and I did not recommend that course of action.

We are in the midst of a pharmaco-EEG study of a putative beta-adrenergic blocker, azepexole, and continuing our clinical explorations, recording EEG's in patients during ECT, lithium, lithium plus haloperidol, lithium plus carbamazepine, and propranolol therapies. So far, we are seeing 'neurotoxic' effects with ECT and with lithium plus haloperidol, and these should prove interesting when quantified.

We finally received approval for a nursing position within the Department, offered it to Lynn Johnson, only to be rejected as she said that she had a better paying job. I am very disappointed, since I could have hired a nurse in April, at the same time as I put Linda and Emily on Research Foundation moneys. In trying to work within the State system to assure her retirement funds, we have lost more than six months in our clinical studies.

I expect Gabrielle to visit us next week for a few days. She is en route to her company offices in New Jersey. The week after, Werner Herrmann is visiting, and I look forward to a few days of pharmaco-EEG talk. Sure will miss your pithy comments.

Congratulations on your membership in IPEG. I received a copy of the 'official' membership list, and you are now an active member -- if I read the German correctly. (Walter Sannita has written to me, asking whether I would intercede on his behalf, for membership. Perhaps we will both have to write letters for him.) I have heard nothing about a replacement for Dieter Bente, either in his University or in IPEG, but expect that I will know more after Werner visits.

My children are well. Jon is now busy visiting volcanoes in Oregon, Hawaii, and Israel. He has received an NSF grant to contrast findings in four locations and he is enjoying doing the project.

I received another package of tulip bulbs from Holland, spent this past week-end getting them into the ground. Lots of work -- and are my muscles stiff today -- but well worth it in the Spring, if the results are as brilliant as we had this past year.

My best to Barbara and the children.

Sincerely yours,