

October 16, 1963

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Dear John:

Please excuse my delay in answering, as I have been away for three weeks on various missions. I have reviewed the program suggestions and discussed these with my co-workers. Following are my thoughts:

1. I agree that the President's suggestions are too nontopical. Also, the secretary's note recommends a tack that is very difficult. The American Psychopathological Association tried such a review within the past two years, and I would hesitate to support such a program again. To the best of my knowledge, there are few studies attempting an evaluation of psychotherapies which are still in progress. These have been written up by the APA in two volumes and unless the Society wishes to do a progress report, I would doubt that it would be very helpful.

2. The suggestion of "Habituation, dependency, and impulse control" is a good one. Except for the groups at Lexington, Kentucky (Wikler, Isbell), and the suggestions from the workers with LSD (Sandison, Hollister, Cohen), I am not acquainted with good research programs in this area. In this section also, reviews of the effects of Librium and meprobanate may be relevant.

3. Three additional topics are of importance:

(a) A symposium on the relation of drug studies in animals to the behavioral effects in man is a timely topic. Much energy is going into a study of animals in various

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laboratory settings, as well as into various in vitro models. I would like to recommend that such pharmacologists as Graham Chen, Ed Daxino, F. W. Schueler, and E. Dille be considered. Also, the interests of Roger Russell of Indiana are well-known to you. Psychiatrists who have an interest in the subject are A. Hoffer, Sam Gershon, L. Hollister, and C. Shagass. There are two European workers in this area, Goldenberg in Russia and Arnold in Vienna.

In addition to these "pure scientists", it may be helpful to invite representatives from the pharmaceutical houses such as S. Irwin of Schering, and L. Cook of SKF.

As a subsidiary subject in this area, I would suggest some effort be made to obtain some reports on the pathological correlates of drug effects. When Cazzulo presented his report to the society recently, he inferred that there was anatomical damage with psychotropic drugs. This subject deserves further study and I would suggest that Dr. Roizin and Dr. Windle be invited.

(b) Much interest has been generated on the analysis of physiological signals. The recent session at the EEG Society on evoked potentials demonstrated clearly that there was a wide discrepancy in the methods available to the various scientists. It may be helpful to invite reports on the evoked cortical potential (as these may be coming in anyway), or on computer techniques for EEG analysis, or on the methods of assessment of physiological change, especially GSR and EKG.

(c) It seems to me that a review of the application of conditioning methods to such subjects as drug testing, treatment of neurotic and psychotic subjects, etc., is of extreme importance now that the methods have been taught sufficiently well to be in use in many centers.

If suggestions 2 and 3 interest you, I would be glad to make up lists of names, although you can do 3 best.

If time permits, would it not be feasible for us to meet on the

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occasion of the ANMD meetings in New York in December to prepare this program?

My regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Pink, M. D.  
Director

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