

letters

June 12, 1974

Larry O. Rouse, M. D.
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Dear Dr. Rouse:

I have read your interesting suggestions regarding entrainment of alpha activity with biofeedback training and the use of "reverse tolerance" to LSD for the modification of epileptic behavior and electrophysiology. The reprints you requested are enclosed, as are the citations.

While I have no intention of engaging in a long-distance argument, I would like to question the concept of "reverse tolerance". This issue has been raised anecdotally by street users of cannabis. We examined the problem and found that tolerance in the classical sense occurred and that "reverse tolerance" was not a direct pharmacologic but a "set" effect. Are your observations with LSD sufficiently well controlled to demonstrate physiological hypersensitivity (i.e., reverse tolerance)? Since heart rate and pupillary size both change with LSD, perhaps you could use (or have used?) these objective indices? In our studies of daily administration of LSD in schizophrenic patients, we found tolerance development to be rapid, occurring to three daily doses.

I trust these reprints serve your purposes.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M. D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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Enclosure