

January 12, 1966

Prof. J. J. Lopez Ibor, President  
Spanish Committee  
IV World Congress of Psychiatry  
Catedra de Psiquiatria  
Facultad Medicina de San Carlos  
Calle de Atocha 106  
Madrid, Spain

Dear Dr. Ibor:

It was a great pleasure to review the announcement of the IV World Congress of Psychiatry, and especially the titles of the proposed symposia and basic reports. You may recall that at the III World Congress of Psychiatry my associates and I organized a special symposium on "EEG and Human Psychopharmacology," which was enthusiastically attended, and has provided a basis for much study and many reports in the intervening five years.

In reviewing the extensive and valuable contributions made by neurophysiological researchers to psychopharmacology, it is the contributions to the understanding of the neurohumoral bases of depressive disorders, especially the cholinergic, which are most striking. The recent elaborations of cholinergic mechanisms in convulsive therapy and the role of central anticholinergic activity in the efficacy of antidepressants has led to a re-evaluation of the cholinergic bases of psychotic depressions. In these studies, quantitative electroencephalography, especially the newly developed computer techniques, have found rewarding applications.

There will be a symposium on one aspect of this subject at the 1966 meeting of the CINP in Washington in March. This symposium will be chaired by Dr. Philip Bradley of Birmingham and myself, and will review the significance of anticholinergic hallucinogens for the understanding of the relation of changes in EEG and in behavior. The clinical applications and theoretical significance of central neurohumoral cholinergic mechanisms for the etiology and treatment of the depressive psychoses will not be presented. These aspects may be of special interest at the World Congress. Perhaps these important contributions to psychiatry are not yet included in the program of basic reports (Section IV) or symposia (I or V). If not, we would commend them to your esteemed attention and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

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