

May 23, 1966

Dr. Alexander M. Don
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Jeppe Street
Johannesburg, South Africa

Dear Andy:

I see from your new address that you have taken on what seems to be an office situation. Congratulations and good luck.

The laboratories here are going at high speed. We have completed an evaluation of cycloserine and this is now being reported. Studies of thiothixene and fluphenazine decanoate are also being completed and these will be available in the early summer. In addition, we have undertaken a new analysis of Sulthiame, ST-155 and Flagyl. Now that I am leaving, I hope that Turan, Ali and Jovan will be able to complete these studies during the next half year.

I am leaving for New York officially in mid-June, and my new address will be at the New York Medical College, 5th Avenue at 106th Street, New York, New York, 10029.

Among the various relationships which have already been established for me is the appointment as Clinical Director for the Mental Health Center. This will enable me to develop clinical research programs in the 100 bed installation as well as in the Out-Patient Department.

Of the various drugs which have been studied, thiothixene seems to be the most potent of the new psychotropic drugs and fluphenazine decanoate which is a long acting phenothiazine, a wonderful additional tool in the treatment of chronic schizophrenics. We have been able to discharge a number of them on this compound and their maintenance seems to be much easier than allowing them to take their medication on their own.

One of the more focussed programs is in drug addiction and we have now begun studies of a new narcotic antagonist called cyclazocine. This has been of great interest and I have suggested, because of its neurophysiological profile, that it be tried as an antidepressant.

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I cannot answer your questions regarding the ECDEU meetings, since I have not been attending them for the past year and do not plan to do so in the future. Perhaps sometime within the next year, we will apply to become an official ECDE Unit and may at that time begin to attend those meetings again.

The girls have continued their interest in dancing and we are pleased to be able to take them to New York where we think their training might be enhanced.

Martha joins me in sending you and Betty our best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF:jmh