

May 24, 1968

Dr. Friedrich Hoffmeister  
Katernbergerstrasse 262  
Wuppertal-Elberfeld  
Germany

Dear Dr. Hoffmeister:

It was a pleasure to hear your report at the CINP and to discuss the problem of narcotic antagonists with you. As I indicated, we are particularly interested in the use of antagonists in the treatment of opiate dependence. Two reports of our work have already appeared, and a third is in press. I am enclosing preprints of each of these.

Two aspects have been of special interest: the potential use of cyclazocine as an antidepressant, and the expense and short duration of action of naloxone.

With regard to cyclazocine as an antidepressant, we were stimulated to these trials by the similarity of the EEG patterns of acute and chronic cyclazocine to that of imipramine. In two clinical trials, we are impressed that cyclazocine is indeed an antidepressant and the preliminary reports of that work are enclosed.

But it is the antinarcotic activity of naloxone that holds the most promise. Because of its short duration of action, not exceeding 4 hours in our trials, it may not be useful in clinical treatment. We are encouraged, however, that other antagonists similar to naloxone may be available in the chemists laboratories - compounds with similar potent antinarcotic activity but of longer duration - hopefully with as long a duration of action as the long-acting depot fluphenazine enanthate or decanoate. We are interested in hearing from you whether Bayer has such a compound available, and if so, whether it is available for clinical trials. Are there other laboratories that may have a long-acting narcotic antagonist?

Dr. Hoffmeister

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I should also like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit our clinical facilities when next you visit the United States. I would like to review our programs and to arrange for you to meet the Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry, Dr. Alfred M. Freedman, who has stimulated these studies.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

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