

November 30th, 1972

Dr. E. Pellegrino

Dr. Max Fink

Memorandum of Health Sciences Center Committee on Research Involving  
Human Subjects dated 11/20/72  
Study of Cannabis, R. Dornbush

I would like to respond to the three reservations expressed by the committee in its latest review of the Dornbush proposal.

(a) The committee raises the question as to whether worsening academic performance can be ascribed to participation in this experiment. In the acute experiments the subjects will have single trials of substances which they have admitted taking on other occasions. In the chronic trials we already have evidence that 21 day exposure has been without harm, both at the New York Medical College and in studies in Boston. We can not say for sure that a 35 day exposure would be without harm, but we anticipate none considering our previous experiments and our observations in chronic hashish users who have been exposed to the compounds for more than 30 years. One of the requirements for participation in the study program is a psychiatric interview and psychological tests which provide some information as to the stability of the subject. In our previous work we have been fortunate, perhaps, in excluding candidates who have experienced instability of affect or behavior during interviews.

(b) The committee enquires as to whether identification as a marijuana user places him at risk. As I mentioned to the committee, there has been no effort made by legal authorities to enquire for such information. In the one instance, in Boston, the investigators refused to give the information and the matter was dropped.

It is clear from the present federal and state regulations that the use of cannabis does not seem to be a risk, but the possession may be a risk. We have in the past maintained possession ourselves, in the hands of the investigators, and would undertake this study only after we have fulfilled the appropriate federal and state requirements.

(c) The committee enquires whether emuneration of \$5 a session or \$400 for a summer participation are excessive - an undue inducement.

We have been awarded funds from the National Institute of Mental Health in prior years and have paid \$5 an hour and \$300 for a four week participation. We do not believe that the same payment for acute sessions would be excessive here, but if an appropriate committee of the university suggests a lower fee we would be glad to try it.

We increased the fee from \$300 to \$400, since we have increased the participation from 4 weeks to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  weeks.

I am attaching a copy of the consent form which we believe meets the suggestions of the committee.

MF/1j  
Enc.