

December 15, 1969

Dr. Benjamin Pasamanick
Commissioner of Research
New York State Department of
Mental Hygiene
Albany, New York

Dear Ben,

Al Freedman returned from meetings with Al Miller with a favorable impression of the willingness of the Department of Mental Hygiene to develop a useful relationship with our Department. It is probable that the Kirby unit at Manhattan State Hospital will become affiliated with our mental health center.

Dr. Cummings indicated that any desire for a relationship for research applications were not an integral part of his program (clinical), but yours. At Al's suggestion, I am writing to explore the possibilities of developing a research unit in the Kirby facility.

I have supported the development of an association in the hope that my students and associates may have an opportunity to extend our research interests in the special population of the state services. At present, we are particularly interested in the question of drug therapies in therapy resistant subjects; in hormonal studies, particularly in post partum psychoses; multiple unilateral convulsive therapy; and neurophysiological changes in schizophrenics.

1. Do you believe a research unit may be established in Kirby, as an extension of the clinical association now under development?

2. Is it possible for the Department of Mental Hygiene to contribute to the development of the specialized facilities or the staffing or both?

3. What procedures or policies regarding research in human subjects may have to be instituted?

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this possibility - if such it indeed is - at your convenience.

My best regards for a happy and prosperous New Year!

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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