

F. Keltner

June 28, 1970

Dr. Russell Taylor, M.D. Ph.D.
Philadelphia General Hospital
Philadelphia

Dear Russ,

If I understand your question, there is a proposition before the A.M.A. to develop a certification in clinical pharmacology by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

For those interested in the clinical pharmacology of compounds affecting the central nervous system (or other systems not ordinarily considered part of internal medicine as eye and skin), an examination as part of the Boards in Internal Medicine would be unsatisfactory. I believe clinical pharmacology to be a derivative art, and not limited to internal medicine, being part of each subspecialty.

Certification in clinical pharmacology by each of the specialty boards may be considered, but this would be unwieldy. It would serve to upgrade the discipline, however, and in Psychiatry the development of an examination in child psychiatry has apparently done much to improve the training in this specialty. If there is a need for upgrading and certification, I would tend to favor the model of child psychiatry, rather than certification in one board only (e.g. as internal medicine) or even the development of new specialty or a conjoint board.

It is a complex question and I thank you for the opportunity to express these views.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

mf/