

March 25, 1971

Capt. Robert Levine
228 Texas Drive
Dyess AFB, Texas 79607

Dear Bob,

It was good to receive your letter and find that you are so active. There is a great need for data on the incidence of drug use, and a sample of 5000 is a good one, although it can be criticized as too large for the purposes of the study. Your solution, to check every 10th booklet, is probably a good one - not only for your reason of practicality, but the redundancy that will probably result from such a large sample in a basically homogeneous population (i.e., male, AF, 20-30, education above 8th or 10th grade, etc.).

I have some suggestions about the questionnaire. The use of cut-offs at 18-20, 20-25, 25-30, ... provides confusion and ambiguity. Perhaps it could be clarified. (The study may be of sufficient interest to NIMH for you to get a small grant for keypunching and data processing.)

The data on the Zung scale looks satisfactory, and I will give it to Stanley.

Since last writing, I have assumed responsibility for 2 floors at Kirby Manhattan Psychiatric Hospital, and we have begun some supervisions of the staff. There will be 4 NYMC residents in 4 month rotations beginning July 1, in addition to the Kirby staff. This provides a nucleus for patient care. We even have some funds for supervision and consultation, and this is reasonable as a beginning.

The Methadonization of NYC is increasing rapidly and even G.P.'s are in the act. Soon, methadone will be recommended for everyone and the two logical cheap resolutions will be touted: free methadone from selected local M.D.'s then from alcohol distribution centers (bars). But, our studies of the antagonists continue, although we are more actively studying marijuana.

Dr. Levine

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Dick's studies are progressing well. We have established a consulting relationship with a chemist for his spinal fluids. Mickey has sent me a protocol for the continuation of the studies of lactate.

Are there any studies you wish to undertake at Kirby? As I wrote to Mickey, it may be helpful to do some protocol writing now and save time later.

I'll pass your letter on to Stanley and Dick, and hope they answer you soon. Will I see you in Washington in May at the APA and SBP?

My best regards, and keep up the good work.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF:kpt