

20 December 1973

Leo Hollister, M.D.  
President  
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology  
Veterans Administration Hospital  
Palo Alto, California 94305

Dear Leo:

I am writing this letter in regard to the latest meeting of the ACNP. First, I wish to commend the Arrangements Committee with their success in providing ideal weather and a most salubrious environment for the meeting. I hope the Council will consider an annual return to Palm Springs with a high priority.

I trust the painful issue of the invitees has been successfully resolved. I was embarrassed by the Council and the Secretary, as were some other members of the Coylege, and I trust this will not recur.

I am writing specifically to raise a question with regard to the arrangements. The registration fee of \$25.00 was tied to a dinner and the free distribution of alcohol. Since not all members of the ACNP drink alcohol, it seems that we are subventing alcohol users and in some rather indirect way encouraging alcoholism. As a College dedicated to drugs and their abuse potential, I believe we should be more sensitive to the problems of abuse and not be put in the posture (even if noble and fund-raising motives are involved) of encouraging alcoholism. Alcoholics ought to pay their own way. I would hope that the Council would make it possible next year for there to be a separation between an attendance fee and dinner and alcohol fees.

Finally, a more important reason for writing this letter has to do with my desire to suggest that the Program Committee consider a round table or symposium on the effects of polypeptides on brain function. During the past few years, a number of scientists, both in the United States and Europe, have demonstrated that ACTH and MSH and their derivative peptide chains may have central effects which are highly specific with regard

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to functions of memory and extinction. Scientists working in this field include McGaugh, Gold, Kastin, deWied, Small, and Essman. My guest at the ACNP, Dr. Henk van Riezen, is a pharmacologist actively involved in this research program in Holland and works closely with Dr. David deWied. At my suggestion, Dr. van Riezen is willing to provide some of the funds necessary to invite the participation of scientists for such a symposium, should the ACNP wish to hold such a session and, secondly, should its own funds be inadequate.

I thank you for the letter regarding the HEW regulations and the Federal Register. I have sent a letter similar to yours on behalf of the APPA--a copy of which is enclosed for your interest. I will be grateful if you would keep me apprised of the evaluations of these guidelines so that I may be able to present them to a meeting of the Council and the APPA during the first week in March. That will be in sufficient time if the 90-day extension is allowed.

My best wishes for the success of your tenure as President of the ACNP and my best wishes for a happy and healthy 1974.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

MF/cis  
Encl.