

September 3, 1968

Dr. Jiri Roubicek
Psychiatric Research Institute
Prague 8 - Bohnice
Czechoslovakia

Dear Dr. Roubicek:

On my return from holidays, I found your kind letter of July 30 and the reprints describing your original studies of convulsive therapy. Two reports in particular are most interesting - the studies of the pathway of electrical current and the EEG changes.

We are comparing the clinical and EEG effects of unilateral convulsive with bilateral convulsive therapy. That the memory patterns differ in these two treatments is well known, with bilateral ECT inducing more memory changes than unilateral. But the EEG patterns are poorly described. We find the same changes with bilateral reported by yourself and many others - high voltage delta and theta activity, bilaterally. With convulsions induced by a unilateral placement of electrodes, the changes are much less prominent with a decrease in voltages, poor synchronization and asymmetry as the most common. The bilateral slow waves of grand mal ECT are missing. Perhaps you can recall from your old experiments an answer to the question of what the differences in pathways would be for seizures induced after unilateral placement of electrodes, when compared to seizures induced after bilateral placement?

I could only read the English summary of your study of EEG and electroshock? That you did not find the same as Roth (or ourselves) is unfortunate and may probably be a function of the time or the techniques of EEG analysis.

We have been much troubled by the stories in our newspapers of the changes now in progress in Prague. I hope that these do not interfere with your plans. You know that we will do whatever we can to assist you, or other members of the psychopharmacology society in continuing your studies under the most optimal conditions.

Dr. Roubicek

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It may be of some help to know that Professor Turan Itil, a close associate in our research programs will be attending the forthcoming WHO Meeting in Yugoslavia. I am sure that you or your associates can discuss with him your programs of research.

Thank you for your reprints.

Incidentally, it was good to hear of the work of Dr. Volavka and Dr. Matousek. I am glad that they have had an opportunity to visit the many laboratories in Europe and hope that we can hear more of what is in progress when next we meet.

My best regards to you, your family and your fine associates.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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