

December 18th, 1972

Joseph T. English, M.D., President,
Health and Hospitals Corporation,
125 Worth Street,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Doctor English,

As you know, the research and treatment studies in opiate dependence which have been in progress at the Metropolitan Hospital Center since 1961, have been enjoined from continuation. Since we became interested in pharmacologic approaches to opiate dependence, an extensive series of studies have been completed. Indeed, it is safe to say that outside the National Institute of Mental Health laboratories in Lexington, no other center has contributed so extensively to the clinical studies of narcotic antagonists (as cyclazocine and naloxone), the neurophysiology of methadone and heroin, the clinical pharmacology of levomethadyl, and even the testing of some "unsuccessful" therapies as tybamate, centrophenoquine, and naloxone pamoate.

It is to be regretted that the staff assembled and trained so painfully should be dissipated; that the efforts on behalf of patients should be ended; and the research terminated. Perhaps, a list of the publications from this program and a few of the recent reprints may influence the destructive course which the local authorities at Metropolitan have pursued so diligently (and so successfully).

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

cc. Mayor John V. Lindsay
MF/ij