

December 19, 1966

Dr. Richard Abrams
104 Childress
Sheppard AFB, Texas 76311

Dear Dr. Abrams:

I have read your letter of December 6 with great interest and find the proposed study a reasonable and important one. I would like to do everything I can to establish it.

The most critical determination at first will be the amount of slow wave activity produced by unilateral ECT. Surely, if unilateral ECT produces a different amount of slow wave activity than bilateral ECT and the clinical conditions are the same, then the original hypotheses will have to be reviewed, as you suggest. I do not think there is any difficulty with regard to any of the essential elements for the study except a biochemist. At the present time I know no one in the metropolitan New York area who is interested in undertaking the cholinestrerase or acetylcholine measures but I think we can look for that.

I have written a note to the Chairman of the Department and to Dr. Harold Kaplan who is in charge of a residency training program, requesting a review of your forthcoming two year residency period so that adjustments may be made to provide an opportunity to undertake this study concurrently with your training. As soon as I have an answer, I will send it on to you.

My best wishes for a happy holiday season and for the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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