

March 9, 1965

Dr. Alain J. Sanseigne, M.D.  
Parke, Davis & Company  
Research Laboratories  
2800 Plymouth Road  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Dr. Sanseigne:

As I discussed with you on the telephone, I am writing to request your assistance in answering some questions which were recently presented to our Pharmacology Committee when we reviewed our investigations with sernyl. As you recall, some weeks ago I called to ask whether we could have additional supplies of sernyl in order to complete our study programs. Dr. Graham Chen was kind enough to send us two grams of sernyl powder. Prior to precessing this powder for ampules, I requested permission of our Pharmacology Committee, and they asked that we obtain answers to the following questions:

- (1) Is there any medical data which has been available to Parke, Davis & Company indicating dangers from the administration of sernyl, which are not in the public domain?
- (2) Is the withdrawal of sernyl from the market and the research scene based on medical requirements, or is the principal reason a commercial one? If medical, would you please tell us what considerations were involved in this decision?
- (3) In the call from Parke-Davis to Dr. Gershon regarding the destruction of his supplies of sernyl, was there some special objection to his batch, or was this a routine call?
- (4) If the Department of Psychiatry at the Missouri Institute of Psychiatry were to file an IND for the FDA, would Parke, Davis & Company make available to us the pharmacology data required by the FDA?

Thank you very much for your help. As you know, we embarked on a detailed study program of the neurophysiological effects of a variety of drugs in our severe mentally ill patients, and sernyl was an important, unique, test substance.

I trust that you have recovered from your recent illness.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

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cc: Dr. Itil