

August 14, 1967

Mr. David Shapiro, Administrator
Gracie Square Hospital
420 East 76th Street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

It was a pleasure to discuss the proposed convulsive therapy project with you and I look forward to our collaboration. I am proposing that a systematic series of studies of the convulsive therapy process be undertaken in the patient populations of Gracie Square Hospital with the consent and cooperation of your attending psychiatrists. The program will be designed to study different types of induced convulsions to answer the important question of which method is most effective for which type of psychotic illness. The methods to be studied are those in common use at Gracie Square Hospital, especially bilateral convulsions (electrical and Indoklon), unilateral convulsions and multiple electrical convulsions.

In this program the patients to be studied are those referred by your attending psychiatrist and we will depend heavily on their assessments of the mental state of the patient at the beginning of treatment and at its termination. In addition, evaluations will be done by psychiatrists of the experimental team and by an experimental psychologist. We would like to make systematic measurements of the induced changes in brain function by tests of memory and perception and by quantitative electroencephalography. The evaluation of the therapeutic results will be based on the reports by the referring psychiatrist and our own evaluations at two and six weeks after treatment is terminated.

The additional personnel for this study program, including the psychiatrists, psychologist, technician and research analysts will be provided from my staff.

It is proposed that Dr. Lothar Kalinowsky will be consultant to the project.

To accomplish this program, in addition to the support of your Medical and Clinical Directors, we would ask that some space be assigned to this study team for interviewing and for an EEG laboratory. For this purpose we would need two rooms, approximately 10' x 12' - one to be equipped as a consultation room and the second as an EEG and psychophysical laboratory. The latter will require temperature control (room air conditioner may be added if the general system is inadequate); a 110 volt electrical outlet isolated from all other outlets in the building, coming directly from the main line and fused separately; and access to a water supply for the cleaning of electrodes. If possible, the laboratory should be away from frequent loud intermittent noise sources, as a main hallway, elevator or recreation room.

Access to a waiting room area where patients and relatives can be accommodated before examinations would be useful.

A separate telephone line for outside calls and an inside line for direct dialling of the floor units would both be useful.

Except for any office furniture which you may have available, we will supply all the office and laboratory equipment, supplies for testing and we will plan to reimburse the institution for all necessary and reasonable expenses which are mutually agreed upon.

Support for this study program will be requested from the U. S. Public Health Service, and as soon as that application is prepared, a copy will be sent to your Medical Director. I would also like to take the opportunity to call you within the next 10 days to discuss the progress of this project.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF:kp

cc: Dr. L. Kalinowsky
Dr. H. Ross