

January 5, 1992

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Dear Mickey,

I read "Are schizophrenia and affective disorder related? A selective literature review" with much interest and relief, mainly relief. I have been finding it increasingly difficult to identify patients with schizophrenia, finding that many patients so labelled responded (with varying degrees of success, sometimes dramatic) to treatments which are ordinarily prescribed for affective illnesses. The cases have not been limited to those with 'catatonia'. These experiences led me to adopt the attitude that no patient should be labelled as suffering from 'schizophrenia' until after failure of vigorous treatment for affective illness. This view has put me into conflict with my associates Fritz Henn and Lynn DeLisi (firm believers in the genetic dichotomy theory), and even some younger faculty trained at Hopkins. Hence my relief at your review and the challenge it provides to the 'establishment'.

Keep up the good work. My thanks and my best wishes for a healthy and happy 1992.

Admiringly.

Max Fink, M.D.  
Proferssor of Psychiatry