

June 15, 1970

Dr. Philip H. Abelson
Editor, Science
1515 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Dr. Abelson:

Your editorial, "Death from Heroin," in the June 12 issue of *Science*, highlighted an important medical and sociological problem. The conclusion that two methods of treatment, methadone and emotional support, seemed promising, omitted what may be another exciting and potentially significant advance in opiate dependence history - that of the use of opiate antagonists.

Coincidentally, the same crisis in heroin deaths spurred us in early May to call a meeting to review the antagonist data. The meeting was hastily convened June 4, at the New York Academy of Medicine, co-sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health. We regret we did not know of your interest in this issue, for we would have gladly invited an observer.

We have prepared a summary of the meeting for your consideration for publication in *Science*. The list of participants includes the American scientists actively involved in clinical trials, as well as pharmacologists and chemists with interests in opiate antagonists. Industrial and governmental representatives attended and hopefully, returned to their laboratories and offices with an appreciation of this approach to opiate dependence.

Publication of this meeting summary in *Science* may serve to inform others, unable to attend, of this progress, and may stimulate additional research endeavors.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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