

November 23, 1970

Dr. Virgil A. Place
Alza Corporation
950 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, California 94304

Dear Virgil,

I appreciate your interesting suggestion for the development of a long acting antagonist. As you know, there is a public commitment to methadone, and it may be difficult to achieve the requested level of support immediately, but I am optimistic that the interest in antagonists will be re-awakened.

1) My associates have read the proposal and we will recommend it.

2) A copy has been sent to Dr. William Martin, for his support and comments. He is on the appropriate NIMH committee.

3) A summary will be included in our 1971-72 contract renewal with the New York State Narcotic Addiction Control Commission, for review on or before April 1, 1971.

I have read the Alza annual report - 1970 - and wish to support your efforts in developing more physiological release forms of psychoactive drugs. Our interest in the antagonist is part of a broader interest in the effects of drugs altering the CNS for prolonged periods for therapeutic ends. In 1964, fluphenazine enanthate was the first formulation that provided a solution to the problem of recidivism in seemingly successfully treated psychotics - patients who responded rapidly to treatment and relapsed when they felt so well that they "forgot" to take their medication. In numerous studies, many in our laboratories, this formulation has been successfully applied in patients now in continuous treatment for 3-4 years.

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There is a need for similar formulations for anti-psychotic, anti-epileptic and anti-depressant drugs.

It may be useful to discuss such needs and applications, when next you are in the East.

Again, my thanks for your presentation, and I am pleased to submit it for support.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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