



FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
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IN REPLYING, ADDRESS THE
MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE HOSPITAL

NIMH Addiction Research Center

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I feel sure you will be interested to learn that we were able to begin our experiments with LSD-25 during the month of July. We obtained 5 subjects who agreed to take the drug chronically. All of these were negro male patients and all of them physically were in very excellent shape. The time so far has been spent exclusively in obtaining control data which includes physical and psychiatric examinations, Rorschach and Goldstein-Scherer tests, Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventories, electroencephalograms, steadiness test, blood chemistries and hamatology. We should be in position to begin exploratory studies designed to determine the minimal effective dose for each man early in August.

Arrangements have been made with the Sandoz Company to obtain a supply of the drug.

The behavior of the patients in our ward has been disappointingly quiet. All five of the men have been extremely quiet, agreeable and polite with each other, the psychiatric aides and the doctors. They definitely are more reserved than we expected and we have a distinct feeling that they are somewhat afraid, most especially of the physicians involved. We have made a strenuous effort to break through this barrier but have succeeded only partially. The relationship with the psychiatric aides, who actually will be the key observers, is becoming somewhat more free and easy, but the degree of rapport attained so far is not nearly so great as we expect with white subjects. Reserve and lack of rapport with the physicians are as great as initially. In all probability, this type of behavior is to be expected with patients of this type. Perhaps the drug will break down some of the barriers.

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I have also heard that the "Alcometer" has been repaired and is being shipped. If no particular difficulties are experienced in the LSD experiment, this will enable us to begin preliminary work with alcohol some time during the fall.

Experiments with 1-N-allylnor Dromoran and the 3-methyl ether of N-allylnor Dromoran are not encouraging. Both compounds produce definite subjective effects when given orally. The margin however appears to be quite small. Total doses of 7.5 mg. orally seldom cause any perceptible effects. Doses of 10 mg. orally almost invariably do, but concomitantly, disturbing toxic effects, chiefly of vasovagal types (marked perspiration, dizziness on standing, weakness and drop in blood pressure) are observed, and these toxic effects definitely interfere with the elicitation of "depressed" material from the patients.

Very sincerely yours,

Harris Isbell
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Director of Research

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