

RECEIVED 11/30/1998

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Department of Pediatrics, Alberta Children's Hospital

November 30, 1998

Dr. R.J. Fessenden  
President, Alberta Science and Research Authority  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sterling Place  
9940 - 106 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2P6

Dear Dr. Fessenden:

re: Nutraceutical treatment of mental disorders

Dr. Bill MacDonald and Ms. Barbara Nyland have been advising me during the preparation of the enclosed application. On their advice, I am sending 1 copy of our full application and 6 copies of a briefer version. *In addition*, I am enclosing a 30-minute videotaped interview which your committee will find informative. We discussed the possibility of my enclosing an Executive Summary, and one is attached. But frankly, the videotape is the best (though unorthodox) executive summary one could imagine.

Attached to this letter is a list of *potential scientific reviewers*. A full description of our *industry partner* and their financial contribution to this project is contained in an appendix.

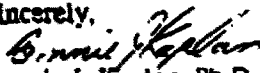
Letters of support from the following are enclosed, or will follow:

[REDACTED]

As explained in the Executive Summary, the entity that will benefit financially the most from a successful demonstration of the efficacy of these supplements is our Provincial Government. A simple look at the economics of even one patient should be convincing. The cost of the supplements ranges from \$100-\$400/month (depending on dosage). In some cases, the patients whose mental health has normalized on this supplement had previously spent weeks or months as inpatients on psychiatric hospital wards. The potential for savings is staggering.

Let me just conclude by saying that a *revolutionary paradigm shift* is occurring in the field of mental illness. In the U.S., the National Institutes of Health are currently commencing clinical trials of nutritional supplements for schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Clinical trials are going on in the U.K., Japan, France, and elsewhere. From the preliminary results, it appears that the intervention we are investigating in Alberta has the potential to be *far more therapeutic*; hence, Alberta could be a major guiding light in this area if we move quickly.

Sincerely,

  
Bonnie J. Kaplan, Ph.D.  
Professor

1820 Richmond Road S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2T 5C7

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17 (4) 6

December 2, 1998

To: Whom It May Concern:  
Alberta Science and Research Authority,  
Government of Alberta

Re. Clinical Trials of Nutritional Supplements

It is with great pleasure that I write a supporting letter regarding the proposed clinical trials of nutritional supplements coordinated by Dr. Bonnie Kaplan. I understand that the trials would be for 1) adult schizophrenia, 2) adult anxiety/mood disorders, and 3) childhood anxiety/mood disorders.

Initial indicators tell us that the potential for nutritional supplements may be enormous in terms of its impact on financial reductions to healthcare costs, mental health issues, and to children with attentional difficulties.

The issue of nutritional supplements is an ever growing field of academic endeavour and shows much promise.

I fully support Dr. Kaplan's research in this important field.

Very sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

17 (4) (G)

November 29, 1998

**RE: RESEARCH PROJECT: NUTRACEUTICAL TREATMENT OF CNS  
DISORDERS**

To whom it may concern:

Recently I attended a meeting with Mr. Anthony (Tony) Stephan and Mr. David Hardy of the Synergy Group. They reviewed with me the outcome of some preliminary open trials using nutrient supplements in the treatment of people with a mental illness. These preliminary trials have been so successful their wish is to pursue the product with more formal, controlled research in a clinical setting.

Based on this meeting, the outcomes of the open trials, and subsequent conversations with others who are aware of the product, I am writing to provide the full support of the [REDACTED] for the research undertaking as proposed by Dr. Bonnie Kaplan, et.al.

One in five Canadians will suffer from a mental illness at some point in their lives. Current treatments, while advancing, remain woefully inadequate in the face of these very complex and often debilitating mental illnesses. [REDACTED]

17 (4) (G)

Despite best efforts, our current solutions are less than perfect. With this we continue to have a responsibility to seek improved approaches that may positively impact the suffering of those with mental illnesses. The Synergy Group product appears to hold promise and thus is a prime target for more in-depth, controlled and reliable research.

17 (4) (G)

17 (4) G

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED] if you wish to discuss any of the above in more detail.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

17 (4) 6

December 2, 1998

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have followed with great interest the work of the Synergy Group of Canada Inc. and the research that it has been conducting over the past three years regarding central nervous system (CNS) disorders. This particular research has focused on the response of these disorders to particular vitamin-mineral supplements. I became aware of their work a little over two years ago in discussion with one of the principles of that group, Mr. David Hardy, whom I have come to know and respect on a personal basis. David and his associate Mr. Tony Stephan have since kept me informed, from time to time, on the progress of their efforts.

I am pleased, but not surprised, that they have been able to interest several research scientists and other professionals, in their efforts to improve the lives of people with mental illness. I understand that this academic interest is coming from the three largest universities in Alberta namely, Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge. This, in itself lends a great deal of credibility to the efforts of Messieurs Hardy and Stephan.

For the last number of years I have been reading, studying and synthesizing information on diet, nutrition, physical activity, supplementation and a variety of antioxidants as they relate to personal health. The results of the initial research that Mr. Hardy and his associates have discovered, correlates nicely with what information I have encountered. For example, the research that was done involving mineral supplementation, medication and the effect that it had on inmate behavior in California State prison. Since that particular study was conducted, a great deal more information has surfaced as it relates to disease, illness, behavior etc.

17 (4) 6

Personally, I am very interested in the plight of those people with mental illness because I have just served [REDACTED] as [REDACTED]. This particular segment of the population suffers disproportionately to any other, and the only remedy that is offered is, medication. The efforts of the Synergy Group, along with the documented research, will lend new hope to the mentally ill, in Alberta. When you combine the evidence that these individuals can produce from medical journals and documented case studies along with the several individuals (real people) that have benefited from nutritional and mineral supplementation, I believe it is time to support these efforts. This is an area of research and study that must continue because for very little dollar input, there is an excellent chance (that is supported by more than anecdotal evidence), that we as a society, will benefit tremendously. This is to say nothing about the life altering potential for people with mental health conditions.

[REDACTED] I strongly support funding research into this most promising discovery. It seems that in this instance, not only would a significant number of people with chronic mental illness benefit from this research, but the province and every taxpayer therein, would also stand to gain from the reduction in spending which would accrue as a result of research efforts.

I understand that the research team that is currently involved in this work is applying for significant funding from ASRA, as well as other sources. I am also of the understanding, that they have a significant commitment from industry in support of this research. It is my feeling that such potentially beneficial work as this should

not be hindered nor delayed by any concern about where the funds come from. They should simply be provided as expeditiously as possible from the first possible source. I would be dismayed, as I know that [REDACTED] would be, if such a promising project were not funded.

Again, I wish to add my name in support of the proposed research project and its funding by government. Worthy research projects such as this, are not normally supported by Industries that feel threatened, or that do not have a direct benefit, and therefore, government dollars are crucial to the success of this type of research. It seems that rarely would government have the opportunity to be applauded by such a significant segment of its citizenry as in this instance, if it were seen to be taking the lead in funding an answer to one of society's most misunderstood and perplexing problems - mental illness.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH)**

Telephone: (403) 220-5463  
Fax: (403) 289-8926  
Email: bruton@ucalgary.ca

December 17, 1998

Dr. Robert J. Fessenden  
President  
Alberta Science and Research Authority  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sterling Place  
9940 - 106 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2P6

Dear Bob:

Enclosed is a further application for funding from ASRA and endorsement of two proposals that were sent directly to ASRA. The enclosed application is for:

- 1) [REDACTED] not responsive  
to current FOIP  
request
- [REDACTED]

Two further applications have also come to our attention both of which were sent directly to ASRA. These are:

**2) Nutraceutical Treatment of Mental Disorders**

This project application has been endorsed by the Vice-President (Research) and Faculty of Medicine as a very exciting and potentially revolutionary treatment for serious mental disorders including schizophrenia, anxiety/mood disorders in adults and children.

and

- 3) [REDACTED] not  
responsive  
to current  
FOIP  
request
- [REDACTED]

.../2