Principles and Problems in Establishing the Efficacy of Psychotropic Agents

Aims
Clinicians, investigators, industry, regulatory agencies, and the general public all are interested in safe and effective medications for the treatment of mental illness. All have a role to play in the development and proper utilization of these medications. Because these roles are overlapping and interrelated (but not identical, and because multiple pressures influence the roles played, it is not surprising that what constitutes “proof of efficacy” and how evidence of efficacy should be accumulated differs among those concerned with drug development. Unfortunately, clinical evaluation is not an exact science; there are no absolute answers, formulas, or clear procedures which can be routinely applied and be expected to give definitive answers with regard to efficacy or safety. This volume, as its title states, seeks explicitly to express the principles and problems involved in establishing the efficacy of psychotropic agents, circa 1970 (Preface, page 1).

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Committee and Contributors
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Authors
The editors are Jerome Levine MD (Chief, Psychopharmacology Research Branch, National Institute of Mental Health, Chevy Chase, MA); Burtrum C Schiele MD (Professor of Psychiatry, University of Minnesota Hospitals, Minneapolis, Minnesota); and, Lorraine Bouthilet PhD (Scientific Director, National Clearinghouse for Mental Health Information, National Institute of Mental Health, Chevy Chase, MA). The contributors are Melvin P Bishop PhD (Associate Professor of Psychiatry (Psychology), Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana); Roland R Bonato PhD (Director, Biometric Laboratory, George Washington University, Washington, DC); JB Chassan PhD (Psychiatric Research Planner, Hoffmann-LaRoche Inc, Nutley, New Jersey); Patricia Cleary MS (Research Associate, Biometric Laboratory, George Washington University, Washington, DC); Jonathan O Cole MD (Superintendent, Boston State Hospital, Boston, MA); Joseph D Cooper PhD (Professor of Political Science, Harvard University, Washington, DC); Alberto DiMascio PhD (Director of Psychopharmacology, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Mental Health, Boston, MA); Robert W Downing PhD (Associate Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania Hospitals, Philadelphia, PA); Spencer M Free Jr PhD
(Director, Biostatistics, Research and Development Division, Smith, Kline and French Laboratories, Philadelphia, PA); Donald M Gallant MD (Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana); Samuel Gershon MD (Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology, New York University Medical Center, New York, NY); Solomon C Goldberg PhD (Assistant Chief, Psychopharmacology Research Branch, National Institute of Mental Health, Chevy Chase, MA); William Guy PhD (Early Clinical Drug Evaluation Unit, Coordinator for Data Analyses, Biometric Laboratory, George Washington University, Washington, DC); LR Hines PhD (Director of Biological Research, Hoffmann-LaRoche Inc, Nutley, NJ); Samuel C Kaim MD (Director, Staff for Alcoholism and Related Disorders, Department of Medicine and Surgery, Veterans Administration, Washington, DC); Donald F Klein MD (Director of Research, Hillside Hospital, Glen Oaks, New York); Gerald L Klerman MD (Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard University Medical School, Boston, MA); C James Klett PhD (Chief, Central NP Research Laboratory, Veterans Administration Hospital, Perry Point, MA); Louis Lasagna MD (Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester, NY); Eugene Laska PhD (Director of Information Sciences Division, Rockland State Hospital, Orangeburg, New York); Ronald S Lipman PhD (Chief, Clinical Studies Section, Psychopharmacology Research Branch, National Institute of Mental Health, Chevy Chase, MA); George W Logemann PhD (Associate Director, Division of Information Sciences, Rockland State Hospital, Orangeburg, New York); Nils B Mattsson LLD (Chief, Scientific Applications Section, Computer Systems Branch, National Institute of Mental Health, Chevy Chase, MA); Douglas M McNair PhD (Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Division of Psychiatry, Boston University of Medicine, Boston, MA); Roger Meyer MD (Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Division of Psychiatry, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA); Karl Rickels MD (Professor of Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania Hospitals, Philadelphia, PA); George M Simpson MD (Supervising Psychiatrist, Research Facility, Rockland State Hospital, Orangeburg, New York); Victor B Slotnick MD (Associate Director, Clinical Investigation, McNeil Laboratories, Fort Washington, PA); UH Uhlenhuth MD (Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Division of Biological Sciences, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois); J Richard Wittenborn PhD (University Professor of Psychology and Education, and Director, Interdisciplinary Research Center, Rutgers State University, New Brunswick, NJ); and Kenneth Yang BA (Senior Staff Scientist, Biometric Laboratory, George Washington University, Washington, DC).