



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852

June 23, 1971

Dear Colleague:

The Bureau of Drugs of the Food and Drug Administration is probably the world's largest clearinghouse of drug information. One of our responsibilities is to make this important information available to practicing physicians.

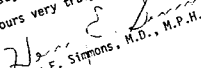
As one means of fulfilling this responsibility, we are initiating a regular series of drug bulletins which we hope will be helpful by providing accurate, objective, timely drug information to you for use in your medical practice.

This first FDA DRUG BULLETIN is concerned with policy matters of great significance to physicians, dentists, pharmacists and other members of health professions. The Drug Efficacy Study conducted by the National Academy of Sciences represents a national audit of the scientific evidence presently available as testimony to the marketing claims of 80 percent of today's prescription drugs. The present issue also contains statements on the current status of fixed-ratio combination drugs, and oral hypoglycemic agents.

Future issues of FDA DRUG BULLETIN will contain a greater proportion of information about matters of direct clinical import. We hope to use this means to inform you about significant new drugs prior to their marketing and also bring to your attention new information about drugs which are already in use.

We want to be helpful to the health professions in any way we can and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Yours very truly,


Henry E. Simmons, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
Bureau of Drugs