

J. Leeters

May 14, 1984

Robert M. Chalfin, M.D.
Department of Psychiatry
Long Island Jewish - Hillside Medical Center
P.O. Box 38
Glen Oaks, New York 11004

Dear Dr. Chalfin,

I received your survey, attempted to complete it, but was unable to do so. The survey seems based on Hillside Hospital residents as practitioners, office primarily, and with a decided bias toward psychological therapies.

My own career in academic medicine owes much to Hillside -- to the opportunity given me to develop a research program based on clinical experimental studies with the random assignment of patients. The Board of Directors, Dr. Israel Strauss, the hospital Founder, and the Medical Director, Joseph S.A. Miller, gave me much support. In part the support was financial, but much more valuable was the encouragement to undertake the best studies possible.

I completed the psychodynamic training at the William Alanson White Institute while a resident and supervisor at Hillside, but I must admit that the teaching and practice paled with the advent of psychotropic drugs in 1954, and I gladly put the practice aside.

I do not know how many other residents went on to an academic career, but it would be helpful if the survey sought these out, and identified the contributions of their Hillside experience to it.

Good luck in you study. I would be pleased to receive a copy of the report when it is completed.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry