

*J. Beer  
Volavka*

October 12, 1979

Theodore H. Waugh, M.D.  
Department of Orthopedic Surgery  
New York University Medical Center  
New York City

RE: Jan Volavka, M.D.

Dear Dr. Waugh,

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation in support of the appointment of Jan Volavka, M.D. as Professor of Psychiatry. I have known of his work since 1966, and I was instrumental in providing a place for him in the United States when the Russians overran Czechoslovakia in 1967. He joined my staff at the New York Medical College and worked with me until I left in 1972. Thereafter he moved to Missouri, where he worked in the laboratories at the Missouri Institute of Psychiatry which I had established in 1962- 1966.

Dr. Volavka is a personable and unusually talented researcher. He is a trained psychiatrist and physiologist, and has skills in computer sciences, electroencephalography and statistics. While with me, he made interesting contributions to our studies of the effects of ECT on brain function, the EEG effects of cannabis, and the relations between EEG measures and behavior. He has since made important contributions in the study of opioids and endorphins, and he is best known for his studies of the relations between genetic markers (XXY and XYY) and EEG variables. The latter studies have been in progress in Denmark for more than a decade.

He is an independent investigator, with innovative ideas and unusual skills and talents. His writings are clear and definitive. He has managed patients and treatment units with ease, and he is well liked by his co-workers.

I commend him, without reservation, for appointment as Professor. (Indeed, I did the same in recommending him for a position at this University a few years ago, when he decided to go to St. Louis.)

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry