

January 28, 1996

Dr. Lawrence C. Perlmutter
Department of Psychology
Finch University of the Health Sciences
3333 Green Bay Road
North Chicago, IL 60064-3095

Dear Dr. Perlmutter,

Dr. Avi Calev has been a neuropsychologist in our program since 1990, and has asked me to write a letter on his behalf. I have known Avi for about a decade, first becoming acquainted with him through his work with Dr. Bernard Lerer at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. At the time, Dr. Lerer was studying the electroshock process, and Avi provided most useful examinations focused on cognition. With Dr. Lerer's encouragement, he applied and was appointed in our Department as a member of our electroshock evaluation program. He was well liked and when an opening appeared in the inpatient clinical services, he was appointed as the psychologist of my inpatient team. My relationship with Avi is therefore at multiple levels -- as a co-worker, supervisor, and friend.

Avi is a talented neuropsychologist with an excellent grasp of psychometrics, projective testing, statistics, and experimental design. He has been an active co-worker and a leader for various projects, as attested to in his curriculum vitae, where he has a large range of co-workers. In addition to the reports of the cognitive effects of ECT, he has also assumed responsibility for studies to determine whether pre-treatment with caffeine will influence therapeutic results and cognitive effects of ECT. He has already published the preliminary results which argue that the effects are favorable and is now completing the data collection for a random assignment study.

I have known him also as the team neuropsychologist on our inpatient service. As such, he has been most helpful in assessing patient characteristics, elaborating the techniques for our residents and medical students, and assuming responsibility for psychotherapy in selected patients. In the latter instance, he both treated patients and supervised our residents.

Lately, he developed a relationship with Dr. Lynn DeLisi, an expert in the study of schizophrenia. Together, they are working on a number of projects with which I am not directly acquainted.

Avi is a conscientious, interested, intelligent, and well trained psychologist. He is well liked by his co-workers and I have been delighted to work with him. He is knowledgeable about the literature, is able to document his positions in argument, and is technically skilled. I am distressed that he has been asked to leave -- a situation which has been occasioned by the necessary down-sizing of our Department and not associated with any of his defects or actions.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry & Neurology
Attending Psychiatrist, University Hospital