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LARS

December 13, 1987

Herbert Pardes, M.D.
Department of Psychiatry
Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons
722 West 168 Street
New York City 10032

Dear Herb,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the promotion of Dr. Sukdeb Mukherjee to the rank of Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry (Annual) in your Department. I have known of his work since his EEG studies with Dr. Turan Itil at the New York Medical College during his residency training. Lately, I have become better acquainted with the reports of his studies of electroconvulsive therapy with Drs. Sidney Malitz and Harold Sackeim, and his collaboration with members of our faculty in neuropsychiatric studies.

Dr. Mukherjee is experienced in psychiatry and neurology, and has developed special skills in electrophysiology. His major contributions are in the description of the effects of psychoactive treatments, both drugs and ECT, on brain function and behavior. In developing these skills, he is clearly in the new mainstream of 'neuropsychiatry' in clinical psychiatry.

He has a very extensive publication record which reflects a lengthy research interest. His work is generally shared with many others and he is well liked. However, it is difficult to discern the area of individual expertise which may become his main research interest; a development which may be needed for him to establish professorial independence.

I am unable to comment on his skills as a treating psychiatrist, nor as a teacher, as I have not had the opportunity to assess these aspects of his work. He has established a firm foundation for his research, and when he identifies an area of individual expertise, I anticipate that he will extend his important contributions.

His record is robust and quite sufficient to support his promotion to the recommended rank. His academic career will continue to be productive, and I recommend his promotion with confidence.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry