

January 26, 1985

Morton F. Reiser, M.D.
Department of Psychiatry
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25 Park Street
New Haven, CT 06519

Dear Mort,

I am pleased to write this letter strongly endorsing the promotion of DENNIS CHARNEY, M.D. to the rank of Associate Professor of Psychiatry. I have known of his work since his important reports with Nelson on delusional depression. As I hold an IND for research studies with mianserin, I have also cooperated with him in making the substance available to him, and in providing the FDA backup for his studies. And, I have come to know him from his presentations at the APA and ACNP.

His studies of delusional depression have been useful in defining the characteristics of patients (with delusions) who do not respond as anticipated to tricyclic drugs, and for whom other treatments are required. His subsequent work with clonidine, yohimbine, mianserin, naltrexone, and most recently, the trials of lithium and antidepressants in the treatment of refractory depressions are innovative, thoughtful, and logically derived from monoaminergic theories of antidepressant drug actions. His studies are well designed, and on the occasions when I have had the opportunity to review them prior to publication, have had no difficulty in recommending their publication.

Dennis is clearly one of the outstanding students of depressive disorders, with a keen grasp of modern theories and research design. My only regret is that he has not (as yet) shown an interest in convulsive therapy, for I am confident that he would make important contributions to our understanding of that therapy which remains the most effective treatment of delusional depression.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry