

F. Lester

August 7, 1975

Ivan W. Sletten, M. D.  
Professor and Institute Director  
School of Medicine  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Missouri-Columbia  
5400 Arsenal Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63139

Dear Dr. Sletten,

I am replying in a formal manner to your letter of inquiry regarding Jan Volavka, M. D. It is not clear for what position he is being considered, but he is an excellent candidate for the position of Director of the Institute.

Dr. Volavka joined my staff at the New York Medical College in the fall of 1968. He came as a well-trained psychiatrist, neurologist, and electroencephalographer, with extensive research experience. Within a short time, he established collaborative and independent research projects in the areas of his competence. When I left the College, it was a pleasure to recommend him to assume responsibility for the EEG programs of the Department.

In addition to mastering the English and Spanish languages that are necessary for his work in New York City, he has become fully accredited in psychiatry by the American Boards and has become licensed to practice in New York.

Dr. Volavka is a keen researcher, well read and well trained, capable of independent and collaborative research. He is an excellent statistician, in addition to his training as a physician. He is well liked by his co-workers, is able to establish good relations with patients, and an excellent teacher.

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We have published together, and in this relationship I have found him critical, independent, and a perceptive student of the literature. I know his family, and while it is difficult for me to conceive that his wife would be willing to share the rigors of St. Louis, she is an outstanding student and athlete, being a world champion in tennis and skiing. He is personable, jovial, hard-working, sensitive, and enthusiastic.

He is an outstanding candidate for the position of Director of the Institute and I commend him to you for that position. I would deem it an honor to have him assume the title which I relinquished some years ago, with the full knowledge that his training and experience would serve to carry out the type of clinical-electrophysiologic investigations for which the Institute has become known under the aegis of Turan Itil, George Ulett, and myself.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M. D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

MF/mr