

May 20, 1987

Samuel Barondes, M.D.
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401 Parnassus Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94143

Dear Dr. Barondes,

At your request, I am writing this letter regarding the promotion of Dr. Edward Merrin to the rank of Associate Professor. I do not know Dr. Merrin, and was not acquainted with his writings before reviewing the publications sent to me.

I am impressed with the quality and sophistication of Dr. Merrin's research studies using quantitative EEG methods. His choice of problem (laterality in schizophrenia) is timely and important; the methods used (power spectral analysis, unlinked reference leads, medication controls) are reasonable; and the quality of the reports excellent. The latter are clearly written, and Dr. Merrin uses good statistical and data processing procedures.

These studies are important and they reflect an interest that should continue to be productive in the foreseeable future. It is difficult to assess the importance of these studies in the field, since there is much activity and little that has been conclusive. These studies of laterality are well done and must be considered in any further studies of the problem. And, as a young investigator, I believe that these reports are of high quality, comparing most favorably with other reports in the field. For example, he has not made the glaring errors of Duffy, E. Roy John, and Morihisa, who failed to control for handedness, drug use, and electrode montage in their conclusions (which have since had to be retracted.)

Dr. Merrin's clinical reports are also well written and useful. I am unable to assess the studies of saccadic eye movements, since I am not conversant with the theory of these studies.

I have examined his list of Departmental, V.A., and University teaching responsibilities, and these seem consistent with his rank. I am, of course, unable to assess their quality.

To the extent of this review, I am impressed with Dr. Merrin's reports and output, and would have no difficulty in endorsing a recommendation for his promotion to the rank of Associate Professor at this University. I am comfortable in making the same recommendation for the University of California, and recommend Dr. Merrin's promotion without reservation.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry