

January 24, 1991

Dominick P. Purpura, M.D., Dean
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
1300 Morris Park Avenue
Bronx NY 10461

Dear Dr. Purpura,

It is with pleasure that I write this letter in support of the appointment of Dr. Bertrand Winsberg to the rank of Visiting Professor of Psychiatry.

I first met Bert in the mid-1970s when he joined the faculty of the Long Island Research Institute, a state supported facility of the Department of Psychiatry. His work in Child Psychiatry was a central teaching unit of our residency training program. My contacts with Bert were in two arenas -- the administrative meetings of the senior faculty of the Department, and in his psychopharmacologic research.

Bert was an active and thoughtful member of our faculty, who provided reasoned judgement on issues of concern. He 'fought' actively to develop a child psychiatry fellowship program, and was enthusiastic about both the clinical research and teaching activities of the Department. I think he was sorely disappointed that we were unable to convince the hospital administration to open an in-patient child/adolescent unit.

His research was mainly psychopharmacologic. When I was interested in the pharmacology of a new entity, mianserin, he studied its pharmacology and pharmacodynamics in children and adolescents. He provided a much needed complement to our own studies in adults. His studies of methylphenidate were also illuminating.

Bert left Stony Brook in the mass exodus following the decision by New York State no longer to support the scientists of the Long Island Research Institute. He was well liked and we were disappointed when no other funding was available.

Bert is a friendly, enthusiastic, energetic man, with a keen interest in clinical psychiatry. He has specialized skills in child psychiatry and psychopharmacology. He is an able teacher and a dogged supporter of his staff. His administrative skills are reflected in his creation and maintenance of a Child Psychiatry Program when none existed before. He trained a skilled staff, and encouraged young researchers to develop careers in child psychiatry.

I consider Bert a leader in clinical psychiatry and am delighted to recommend him, without reservation, for appointment as Visiting Professor of Psychiatry.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry