

April 23, 1993

Captain Richard Pico, MC, USAF
Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center
Lackland Air Force Base, TX 78236-5300

Dear Rich,

Thank you for your very nice letter of April 5.

You should apply to NARSAD for a startup grant for your first-break psychosis study. I would be glad to support your application and provide the needed letter as mentor/advisor. However, it would be better if your sponsor were someone in San Antonio or at a neighboring city in Texas. The reviewers are aware that distance is a deterrant to useful interaction. Ray Faber should be supportive; if not, A. John Rush at Dallas is a good friend and I would get the two of you together if you are willing to get to Dallas. [If you have another sponsor, I will gladly write a supporting letter.]

I am not sure what is best for your third year time, since I do not recall the constraints. The brain imaging laboratory at UT is at the forefront of a national brain imaging database collection program, and I am impressed that if you came to master the techniques described at the ANA meeting, you would be doing yourself an excellent service -- both for your science and for any clinical future.

As for EEG, much good work has been done, but the neurologists and electrophysiologists have a less sanguine image of EEG brain imaging than do I. Newer methods, like MRI, PET, and SPECT are flashier. Newer methods get more industrial and academic support [there is more money in MRI, CAT than EEG]. Perhaps, the clinicians are correct, and we have reached the limit of what can be learned in an individual case from scalp recording. I do not believe that we have reached the limit of EEG as a scientific brain imaging tool -- it is so responsive to set and emotional change, so easily and safely recorded, so easily quantified, and so much has already been done to relate EEG change to behavior. I can see no harm in getting to read EEG records by the usual page turning methods; at the least, it will provide a source of income should you wish to continue such work in practice.

Call me any late afternoon or evening at my home-office: 516 862 6651 and we can discuss this further.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry
and Neurology