

January 6, 1987

Michael Alan Taylor, M.D.  
Professor & Chairman  
UHS/Chicago Medical School  
3333 Green Bay Road  
North Chicago, IL 60064

Dear Mickey,

I am pleased to submit this letter recommending the promotion of CONRAD SWARTZ, M.D., Ph.D. to the rank of Professor of Psychiatry. I have known Connie for about four years, since his association with Dick Abrams in your department in their research in ECT. My relationship has been chiefly as an editor -- in reviewing Connie's submissions to CONVULSIVE THERAPY, and to other psychiatric journals; and in his responses to my requests for reviews of the work of others. I have observed his presentation of papers at national meetings, and have read many of his papers. In addition, when he and Dick sought to develop a better ECT device, I was consulted and carried out some early assessments of the THYMATRON. When I wished to make a videotape to inform patients and their families about ECT for consent purposes, both he and Dick were helpful in developing the concept and the final tape. Finally, Connie sent me a copy of his c.v., and I have read it.

Connie is clearly one of the best trained, intelligent, and innovative researchers in ECT today. As a graduate of the University of Iowa training programs, he has all the hallmarks of a hard-headed scientist, with a keen reliance on data. He has shown the ability to combine his mathematical and engineering skills with those of the physician, and has contributed to our understanding of the ECT process, to neuroendocrine tests, and to lithium therapy as well. His studies of prolactin release and the formulation of a mathematical model to estimate the amount released under different interventions provides the best estimate of central responses to seizures. Indeed, the demonstration that the amount of prolactin released by seizures is influenced by electrode placement, current type, and current dose provides an excellent index of the strength of the stimulus in ECT which should be useful in further studies of the ECT process. His recent suggestion for a better way to monitor lithium therapy is innovative and promises to be useful. The application of his models to the TRH test seems also to be a useful advance.

He has an unusual breadth of interest; his studies go beyond ECT, encompassing statistics and mathematical models, pharmacokinetics, neuroendocrine tests, and alcoholism. Connie has achieved an unusual national reputation for independent research with a firm mathematical and statistical base.

He lectures and writes well although his style is rather prolix. He is highly intelligent and innovative, and is clearly a self-starter and independent investigator.

It is a pleasure to recommend Connie's promotion to full Professor. I am confident that he will continue to be productive and innovative and am always delighted to see one of his manuscripts or reports.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry