

January 30, 1990

Morton Miller, M.D.
Lahey Clinic Medical Center
41 Mall Road
Burlington, MA 01805

Dear Mort,

I was delighted to get your letter. I have known Julie Balaban since she was a child and have watched her progress in her schooling with pleasure. If she has the qualifications, I would ask her if she believes she can do the job; if she says she can, I would hire her immediately.

I enclose a description of the two ECT videotapes. The one for patients and their families describes the benefits and risks, to allow for 'informed consent'. The one for professionals is more technical and seeks to answer the questions most often raised at meetings about the ECT process. The tapes are widely used. Last year, Leon Grunhaus at the University of Michigan made a similar consent tape. These are the only tapes available commercially.

The ECT service is doing well. I have two 4th year fellows who are working on good projects. We are randomly assigning ECT patients to continuation ECT or drug therapies; treating parkinson patients (without depression) with ECT; studying the psychopathology of catatonia (following the models of Taylor and Abrams); and continuing the treatment of schizophrenic patients ('positive symptom psychosis') with ECT and fluphenazine combined. We often see patients with 'the Miller sign', and every few weeks we diagnose manic delirium or acute catatonia. We have also treated some 'reversible dementia' (pseudo-dementia) cases with reasonable success.

Only Nissan Schechter remains at HSC from the old days (and Richard Friedman and Pierre Hahn in C Building). I called Stan last week to get some advice about Israel and he was helpful and seemed to be bothered little by aphasia.

Thank you for your kind regards. Martha and our children are well. We continue to work, despite reaching retirement age, since we still enjoy teaching. My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry