

August 23, 1988

Murray Wexler, Ph.D.
Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
University of Southern California School of Medicine
LAC/USC Medical Center
1934 Hospital Place
Los Angeles, CA 90033

Dear Dr. Wexler,

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the promotion of Dr. BARRY A. KRAMER to the rank of Associate Professor of Psychiatry. I have known Barry since his tenure at Hillside Hospital when he was interested in electroconvulsive therapy and we developed a collaborative research protocol. He left for California in 1982, as we were completing our protocol, and we sought to develop the project at USC but that was not feasible. We have collaborated on a number of reports since then. His survey of the usage of ECT in California is an important historical and social document, often quoted. He also carried out a survey of the use of ECT as a maintenance treatment, and published a fine report last year. He participated in a number of programs with me at national society meetings.

Barry is a well trained psychiatrist, with a keen appreciation of the role of ECT in clinical practice. He has made significant contributions to convulsive therapy research and his publications are well regarded.

I recognize Barry as a dedicated, responsible, and excellent clinician. He is friendly, interested, and enthusiastic about his work. He is a dedicated parent. Barry is an established clinical teacher. His presentations are clear and well thought out.

He clearly meets the standards for promotion at this University, and I would heartily endorse his promotion.

As for the question of tenure at this University, it is not possible to make such a judgement since tenure is reserved for full-time faculty. If Barry were a faculty member on a full-time basis, I believe we would recommend his promotion with tenure, although there may be a question regarding the absence of laboratory investigations in an aspect of neuroscience in his record. Such evidence seems now to be the standard in our department.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry