

November 28, 1989

Prof. Oded Abramsky
Chief Scientist
Israel Ministry of Health
Jerusalem

Dear Prof. Abramsky,

I write this letter to encourage the application of **Dr. Seth Kindler** for support as a research scientist at Ezrath Nashim and the Hebrew University. I have known Dr. Kindler through his publications and his presentations at international psychiatric meetings. I have known his mentor, Prof. Lerer for more than a decade, and have been an enthusiastic supporter of their important research in electroconvulsive therapy and the receptor mechanisms in depression.

Despite his youth, Dr. Kindler has an impressive record. He graduated the Hebrew Medical School in 1982, and in seven years, completed his formal psychiatric training, published important research findings, and developed laboratory and clinical skills. He seeks to combine these in studies of the neuroendocrine aspects of depressive disorders.

I am particularly impressed with the importance of these studies for our understanding of the mechanism of action of ECT, a most useful treatment. Prof. Lerer has already contributed much to this knowledge. In 1980, Prof. Ottosson of Göteborg and I proposed a neuroendocrine theory of the mode of action of ECT. Much work has been done in the United States, Greece, the U.K., and Israel on this theory. It remains viable and I believe that Dr. Kindler's research into serotonergic mechanisms is important in our progress.

Few laboratories in the world are as well equipped and as interested in research in the affective disorders as those at Ezrath Nashim which I visited a few years ago. Under the leadership first of Prof. Belmaker and now Prof. Lerer, the studies have made important contributions to our knowledge. Any encouragement that can be given Prof. Lerer, as in the support of Dr. Kindler, should pay handsome dividends in research and in the position of Israeli research in world psychiatry.

I congratulate the Ministry of Health on having such a promising opportunity to support important research.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry
Editor, **CONVULSIVE THERAPY**