

December 4, 1991

James Ballenger, M.D.
Chairman, Department of Psychiatry
Medical University of South Carolina
171 Ashley Avenue
Charleston, SC 29425-0742

Dear Jim,

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter in support of the promotion of **Charles H. Kellner, M.D.** to the rank of Professor of Psychiatry.

I have known Charlie since about 1985 when he moved to South Carolina and asked for my advice in training in ECT. Since then, he has been an active reviewer for Convulsive Therapy and an occasional contributor. I have followed his research publications and listened to his presentations at scientific societies. I encouraged his acceptance of an active role in the Association for Convulsive Therapy, as well as the course in ECT which he is chairing in Charleston in February, 1992.

Charlie is a well trained psychiatrist, certified by the American Boards with special certification in geriatric psychiatry, and eligible for certification in neurology. His teaching and administrative skills are defined by his roles in residency training, ECT, and consultation/liaison.

He is an active researcher. In his period at NIMH, he reported useful findings in brain imaging (CT and MRI) in relation to measures of cognitive impairment, hypercortisolemia, and lately in patients with obsessive compulsive disorder. He has published numerous letters and commentaries in ECT, and has a series of contributions in ECT accepted for the 1992 APA and ACT meetings.

He is an enthusiastic clinician. While I have not had the opportunity to observe his clinical work directly, I have read numerous clinical research contributions and these exhibit enthusiasm, interest, and breadth.

At this time, he is one of a handful of 'young' researchers in ECT in the U.S. Considering the general antipathy to ECT among psychiatrists, his willingness to use, teach, and study ECT is remarkable. A few months ago, I was asked by Bob Cloninger for recommendations for a young researcher in ECT for his Department in St. Louis. I gave him three names, with Charlie's at the head of the list.

His contributions to Convulsive Therapy have been intelligent and enthusiastic. In recommending new appointments to the Editorial Board for 1992-1996, Charlie was unanimously invited.

I like his calm and quiet ways, and his enthusiasm and willingness to work; I admire his academic skills; I recommend him for promotion without reservation, in the full expectation that he will continue to contribute to the academic vigor of our field.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry