

March 2, 1991

David L. Braff, M.D.
Chairman, Membership Committee
Society of Biological Psychiatry
UC-San Diego
San Diego, CA 92103-1990

Dear Dr. Braff,

I have been acquainted for about four years with the work of Dr. Chittaranjan Andrade of the National Institute of Mental Health and Sciences of India. He is a talented investigator who has tackled a topic of little concern among neuroscientists, that of the behavioral effects of induced seizures in man. He, and his associates Drs. B. Gangadhar, G. Swamineth, and S. Channabasavanna have been very productive in their research into clinical ECT. Dr. Andrade also spent a fellowship year in Vienna with Drs. Langer and Koinig in studies of neuroendocrine effects of ECT.

Dr. Andrade and his associates were instrumental in organizing the first All-India Conference on ECT this Fall; a meeting which I understand was most successful in highlighting the national progress in clinical use and research into this hardly used therapy.

There was a time when the Society of Biological Psychiatry (formed as a union of biological, electroshock, insulin coma, and carbon dioxide specialists) was interested in ECT. If that is still true, then Dr. Andrade is a fine example of the new breed of clinician/researchers whose work should be encouraged; membership in a U.S. organized society may do much for him, and I recommend him highly to the Society.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

P.S. I have been a Fellow of the Society since the 1950s, a winner of the first A.E. Bennett Award, and winner of the Gold Medal Award of the Society.