

February 4, 1997

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Dear Walter,

Thanks for your recent notes. I worked on the IPEG Articles of Association and enclose my pencilled comments. I think that some members would be shocked to think that the residual money -- even if there will not be any -- was committed to the German EEG Society. Better to have the officers decide what to do at the end. It is usual to give a party and spend all the money when a society dissolves. Good times and good memories should be had by all.

As for Dr. Valducci, it is a tragedy. But, electroshock is a surgical procedure and even if someone has given more than one-million treatments, the same care must be given to the one-millionth-and-one. The patient's death, as described, is the result of a doctor's error. It happens, but that does not excuse the physician. The family deserves recompense. The reason is simple -- if there is a question about eating before ECT, the treatment is either passed over; or if the treatment is compelled by the state of the patient, it can be given, provided that the patient is intubated. [Hence, our insistence in the U.S. on an anesthesiologist for every treatment.]

Tell Dr. Valducci we are sympathetic, but he seems to have erred.

I am off to Astralia for two weeks. It seems that they want an American 'course' in ECT and Martha agreed to go with me.

My best regards to Titty.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.