

J. L. Lichten  
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May 15, 1992

Ellen P. MacKenzie, M.D.  
2216 Belle Chasse Highway  
Gretna, LA 70053

Dear Dr. MacKenzie,

I very much appreciate your letter of May 5. I am heartened, rather than discouraged, by your plea to use my influence and reputation to enhance the education of your colleagues. You represent one of those who came to a course, and are now using your skills to treat patients who need ECT. That is gratifying enough.

Last year, I gave a lecture on ECT at the Ochsner Clinic. They sent a young trainee, Jerry Heinz, to my laboratory for a week. And while I have not heard directly from him that he has begun to treat patients, another resident introduced herself at a recent course and said that they had begun an ECT unit.

The best I can do is visit again, if the professionals at Charity Hospital seek some help, either in teaching or in organizing an ECT service. But the need must be felt by the professionals at the facility.

I believe we are making progress.

The case reports published by Sandoz are not meant to educate, but to indoctrinate. So long as medical schools and psychiatric organizations depend on the largesse of industry, they will be subject to this type of 'education'. Gilbert Honigfeld is poorly acquainted with ECT, and has no interest in any comparison between clozapine and ECT. When clozapine was still 'experimental', I proposed to Honigfeld, Kane, and Meltzer a study of their treatment failures, *i.e.*, the 70% of clozapine treated patients who did not improve, with ECT at no extra expense to the patients. But we never received referrals and only recently have Meltzer and Kane begun trials of ECT with clozapine or after clozapine.

Good luck in your efforts, and many thanks for your kind remarks.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Editor