

June 24, 1988

John M. Kane, M.D.  
Department of Psychiatry  
Long Island Jewish Medical Center  
75-59 263 Street  
Glen Oaks, New York 11004

Dear John,

Congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of Psychiatry at LIJH. It is a particular pleasure to know that the hospital has sought a researcher as its leader, and to join with other graduates of Hillside's training programs in wishing you a fruitful tenure of leadership.

It was 30 years ago that Israel Strauss, Joseph S. A. Miller, and the Medical Board of Hillside Hospital endorsed their research aims by creating a full time position of Research Director. When Don Klein and my co-workers in the Department of Experimental Psychiatry (that was the fashionable term in those days, much like Division of Neuroscience would be today) wrote a review of our activities for the Journal of the Hillside Hospital in 1961, we not only looked back at our accomplishments, but sought to direct the Board's eyes forward by calling for a 200 bed clinical research center. We saw something special in Hillside. Perhaps it was ambitious, but we were encouraged by the dramatic gains of the psychopharmacologic drug revolution, the nation was in an expansive mood (pre-Viet-Nam, pre-Kennedy/Johnson), and we thought the cure of mental illness was in our grasp.

In the interim decades, the leadership of the hospital seemed too concerned with fiscal and operational matters to fully utilize its outstanding research opportunities. Your success in building on Don's programs has given you the unique opportunity to realize even more of the potential in Hillside's patients, staff, and history. It is a fine opportunity, and the staff at Long Island Jewish Hospital and the community it serves are to be congratulated in their selection.

My congatulations on your appointment; and my best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry