

June 14, 1983

Barry M. Maletzky, M.D.
8332 S.E. 13 Street
Portland, Oregon 97202

Dear Barry,

Thank you for your letter of May 27 regarding an ECT journal or newsletter.

Following Paul Blachly's death, I considered continuing the Bulletin, but the burden seemed too great and the need small. In the past two years, however, the need has become greater, and I have looked into the question.

I believe that there is little future for a journal dedicated to ECT alone. I have approached some publishers, and each indicated, correctly I believe, that a journal dedicated to one treatment would have a limited audience. More important, it would not attract the best papers. The better authors and best papers would be sent to the general journals, since there they would get the widest circulation. I also enquired about an ECT section in a major journal, and four editors turned me down; again, I can agree with their logic. They accept articles about ECT, and if we made a dedicated section, we might get to use fillers with a negative impact on quality.

A newsletter is another matter. I have approached three publishers and I have prepared a prospectus for two of them. I propose a newsletter along the lines of the Biological Therapies Newsletter, dedicated to the technical and scientific issues of convulsive therapy. If I am successful in getting the funding, the first issue will be out before the end of the year.

My regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry