

August 18, 1988

Herman M. van Praag, M.D.
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Dear Herman,

Thank you once again for copies of your annual report. I have watched the growth of the report, which surely reflects the progress in your Department, from a few pages of xeroxed material to these two descriptive volumes. While they reflect much, I am sure that they tell only a fraction of the sweat and anxiety that went into the Department's growth.

I looked through the sections for reflections of the use of ECT and found this useful. I recall that one of your associates was interested in developing a manual of procedures. Now that our science has become so complex and high-tech, the APA has found the same need and has established a new Task Force on ECT which is writing guidelines for treatment and for accreditation of practitioners. The report should be available next May.

One interesting aside. My impression is that ECT is rarely used in the Netherlands. The amount of published new work is small. I was surprised a few months ago by an invitation from Organon to come to Holland for a week in October, to lecture on the topic of ECT at each of seven medical schools. The faculties apparently requested the topic! Even though the assignment is clearly overwhelming and onerous, I gladly accepted the opportunity to meet colleagues and re-establish relationships. I asked to meet with David de Wied. Are there other researchers with an active interest in ECT whom I should try to meet?

Stony Brook is also growing nicely. Fritz has placed his imprimatur on the Department (most of the appointees made by Stanley Yolles have left), and we are moving forward as a full fledged neuroscience center. I have taken these months off to write a book on an old love, that of pharmaco-electroencephalography. I hope to get it done by early Spring.

I meet Gregory Asnis from time to time, and read often of his work. I recently met your graduate, John Zach who has become restive in White Plains and is interested in a move. At one time, he spoke to me about setting up an ECT unit; his most recent work has been in eating disorders.

Thank you again for keeping me informed. My regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry