

November 4, 1970

Mr. Richard Zirinsky
Chairman, Board of Governors
Gracie Square Hospital
420 East 76th Street
New York, New York 10021

Dear Mr. Zirinsky:

It is with gratitude that my associates and I complete our studies at Gracie Square Hospital, and relinquish the laboratory which you so kindly made available. The opportunity to study the treatment programs at the hospital was most valuable, allowing us to compare the clinical, memory and EEG changes in three forms of ECT.

Reports of these studies have been presented at meetings of local and national scientific societies (Eastern EEG Association, December 1969; Psychiatric Research Society, Miami Beach, 1969; Eastern Psychiatric Research Society, April 1970). We have completed four reports (see enclosed preprints) defining various aspects of the convulsive therapy process; two are already in press. Additional reports are in progress and will be forwarded to you when completed.

We believe that the work done at Gracie Square Hospital has greatly enhanced our knowledge of the convulsive therapy process, and improved the stature of scientific research in this field. The governmental support we obtained for this project underscores the national and public health importance of investigations of this valuable psychiatric treatment.

You will also be pleased to know, that because of our interest and the special nature of these studies, we have recently been asked by the National Institute of Mental Health to sponsor an international meeting of the scientists studying the treatment of depression, to assess these optimistic ECT results.

Mr. Zirinsky

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The next phase of the study requires more extensive laboratory examinations, a larger population of long-stay patients, and a time-consuming treatment method (multiple monitored ECT). For these reasons we will transfer the project and equipment to Metropolitan Hospital during the next two weeks, vacating our office at Gracie Square Hospital by November 10.

We wish to express our deepest gratitude for the hospitality, cordiality, and active cooperation that you and your staff have extended to us during the past two and a half years. Drs. Abrams, Dornbush, Feldstein, Volavka and our co-workers join me in expressing our appreciation. Without the support and tolerance of the attending, clinical and administrative staff, this project would have been impossible; with it, we have once again demonstrated that scientific research can be successfully carried out in a private institution with private patients and with important results for clinical psychiatry.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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cc: David Shapiro