

October 25, 1988

C. W. Erwin, M.D.  
Duke University Medical Center  
Durham, North Carolina 27710

Dear Dr. Erwin,

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the promotion of Dr. C. EDWARD COFFEY to the rank of Associate Professor (Psychiatry). I have known Ed for about three years, initially through his research writings in convulsive therapy, then as a contributor and reviewer for CONVULSIVE THERAPY, and lately as a member of the journal's Editorial Board. I have observed Ed present reports at many meetings, and have read many of his reports, not only those submitted to our journal, but to many other journals as well.

Ed is a well trained neurologist and psychiatrist, one of a few young academic psychiatrists who has completed formal neurologic training. While it was customary for trainees in my generation with an interest in an academic career to complete neurologic training, it is (unfortunately) much less common today, and such experience has contributed materially to Ed's writings and teaching. He clearly has the opportunity to become a leader in the rediscovered discipline of 'neuropsychiatry'.

When I read his c.v., I discovered that he was a Rhodes Scholar. It did not surprise me, for despite his youth I already thought of him as an acknowledged expert in ECT and brain imaging, to name two aspects of his research interest.

Ed has published more than 35 good scientific articles on MRI scans, ECT, and neuropsychiatric topics. His studies of the effects of caffeine in lengthening seizure duration in ECT are the main citations in an active field. Lately, he has focussed on MRI imaging in elderly depressives, and I believe he is making useful contributions to that preliminary and complex literature.

He is among a small band of young, articulate, and enthusiastic researchers in clinical psychiatry. I recognize him as a dedicated and responsible researcher and excellent clinician. He is friendly, warm, genteel, interested, and enthusiastic about his work. He lectures well, and responds to questions with a relaxed and softspoken demeanor. He is an established independent researcher and teacher. He meets the standards for promotion at this University and I recommend him for promotion with much enthusiasm and without reservation. I also would support a recommendation for tenure.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry