

March 1, 1986

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Dear Barney,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the recommendation for tenure appointment for Richard Weiner, M.D., Ph.D. I have known Rich Weiner for more than nine years, becoming first acquainted with his work when he was a consultant to the APA Task Force on Electroconvulsive Therapy and when he applied for VA Merit Review support. Later, we worked together on developing a collaborative ECT study for NIMH, and more recently, he has been helpful in the development of the new journal, CONVULSIVE THERAPY. I am well acquainted with his research projects and writings; have attended many of his presentations; and have had the benefit of his advice.

In the past decade, he has established himself as a major researcher in electroconvulsive therapy. He (and the research group at Columbia University) seek to tease out the relationships between stimulus parameters and electrode location, with efficacy, cognitive, and EEG effects of two current types (brief pulse and sine wave) and two electrode locations (unilateral, bilateral). His work is methodical, detailed, with significant attention to the parameters of the treatment. His training in electrical engineering may have been instrumental in the selection of his research interests and in the type of work that he has done. He has also presented useful case reports, and he has often been invited to summarize the present status of ECT in textbooks and conferences.

He has been the chairman of a special task force on electroconvulsive therapy devices for the American Psychiatric Association. He has attended and participated in almost every major ECT conference in the past few years.

Rich is a careful, methodical, rigorous worker. He speaks slowly and deliberately, and he is always thoughtful. His research publications are well documented, and they are accepted as standards in the field. It is a pleasure to recommend him for tenure.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry