

*F. Lichten*

May 12, 1971

Dr. Steven Secunda  
Depression Section  
Clinical Research Branch  
National Institute of Mental Health  
5454 Wisconsin Avenue  
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

Dear Dr. Secunda:

With reference to your letter of April 29, I find that the quotations are accurate, and are not quoted out of context. You may quote these for the Director of the Institute.

For your information, we have recently presented the results of our first 34 patients treated with MECT, and I regret to say that we have not achieved a "dramatic" reduction in improvement. This is most puzzling and we are continuing our studies to understand why MECT acts like single induced seizures.

Our studies clearly support the data that unilateral non-dominant electrode placement produces clinical improvement in depressive illness with minimal or no memory deficit, even in elderly patients.

I trust these comments are helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

MF:kt