

May 21, 1996

Robert M. Post, M.D.
NIMH
Building 10 Room 3N212
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Bob,

I am pleased to nominate Harold Sackeim of Columbia University for the NARSAD Selo Prize.

For the past decade, Harold has been the nation's leading researcher into the practical issues in electroconvulsive therapy. He has defined the importance of the seizure threshold, energy dosing, and electrode placement in the efficacy of ECT for affective illness. In addition, he has clarified the role of 'pharmacotherapy-resistance' in the efficacy of ECT in affective disorders. Learning from those experiences, he has organized and is now analyzing the data of the nation's only study assessing the relative efficacy of continuation TCA vs continuation lithium plus TCA vs placebo in the aftercare of patients who complete ECT. He has also made important suggestions as to the mechanism of action of ECT, and in the present brouhaha about TMS, he is carrying out the most organized and detailed studies of this possible alternative induction method.

He has been an NIMH scholar, a NARSAD scholar, received an award of the ACNP, and is now a member of the APA Task Force on ECT.

For the decades of the 1960s to the 1980s, it could be said that I led the ECT research community. In the past decade, that role has surely been taken by Harold and his leadership should be acknowledged. I am pleased to nominate him for the honor.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry
and Neurology