

F. Letter

July 2, 1979

TO: Stanley F. Yolles, M.D.

FROM: Max Fink, M.D.

SUBJECT: Proposal by N.S. Lehrman, M.D.: "Psychotherapy with a Recidivist Chronic Schizophrenic Population..."

This is an ambitious treatment program dedicated to a psychotherapeutic interaction in chronic, relapsing schizophrenic patients. The study is based on an uncontrolled, impressionistic study in which "More than 30 chronic, repeatedly admitted... patients have been receiving treatment in this fashion... since November 1978, with apparently excellent results so far...". Since neither the case description, the intervention, nor the outcome criteria are described, it is not possible to assess the success of this "intervention". If the therapy is so rapidly (November 1978 - May 1979) effective, it must be powerful indeed, and we are entitled to a better description. Specific questions that should be answered to allow a reasoned review are the following:

1. A description of the characteristics of the 30 patients selected.
2. Number, frequency, duration of interventions.
3. Were medications maintained at pre-therapy levels, or changed? If changed, how often, by what criteria and with what outcomes?
4. What are range of changes, their incidence, and duration, which are the basis for "excellent results".
5. What are the characteristics of the proposed psychotherapeutic interventions, particularly, how are these distinguished from established therapies ordinarily available in the OMH institutions.

S.F. Yolkes, M.D.

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Until such data are provided, the study cannot be recommended for support.

MF:bc

May 9, 1979

TO: S. F. Yolles, M.D.

FROM: Max Fink, M.D.

SUBJECT: Replacement for Mr. Robert Bienstock

I would like to recommend the appointment of two young women, Miss Stephanie Orson and Miss Jane Engele to replace Mr. Robert Bienstock. Each of these appointees is recommended on a half time basis, effective June 2, 1979. Attached are copies of their Curriculum Vitae.

Thank you for your help.

MF:bc
Att.

J. Lellan

October 13, 1978

Stanley F. Yolles, M.D.
HSC
SUNY at Stony Brook

Dear Stan,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Dr. Kenneth Tardiff, in support of his application for promotion to Associate Professor. I have known him since he joined our faculty in 1975 and while I have had little opportunity to assess his clinical or research ability, I have worked with him in the Psychobiology System, and it is there that I came to appreciate his skill as a teacher and his interest in the students. In the year that we worked together, I found him enthusiastic, dependable, and appreciative of the problems of the students. He worked well with us on the committee and facilitated my teaching.

It is from his record that I have to assess his research and clinical skills. It is clear that he has the academic training and interest, and his publication list and independence of research efforts during the past year indicate that he has the basis for a research contributions of high quality and innovative creativity.

As a fellow member of the Department, I have found him warm, interested, restrained, and quiet. In the committee, he has always been prepared and presented his work well. I believe he carried out this assignment to our satisfaction; I surely have no awareness of any deficiency in the training program or in the appreciation of the students.

From a number of points of view, I believe he has achieved the record which will justify an enthusiastic recommendation for promotion to Associate Professor of Psychiatry.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

F. Papakostas

April 11, 1978

TO: S. F. Yolles, Institute Director
From: M. Fink
Subject: Appointment of Dr. Y. Papakostas

Dr. Papakostas will complete his third year of residency training in June. He has applied to me to join the LIRI research programs and I would be pleased to have him work with us, if we could generate the support necessary.

In 1977, Dr. Asnis was a full time employee of the Division of Clinical Science. When he went to the V.A., he went as half-time LIRI and half-time VA. When he resigned in January, I recommended that John Lee, then on 'soft money', be appointed to his half-line at LIRI.

Dr. Lee will be appointed to 5/8 VA in order to take advantage of the rules that only employees at the VA who are 5/8 or more can apply for VA grants. That will occur in May/June and will leave 1/8 of a line free at LIRI.

Whatever happened to the other half of Asnis' line? Is it permanently 'lost'? Is it possible to use that half a line plus the 1/8 from John Lee to create a 5/8 LIRI line, possibly for Dr. Papakostas?

Two issues are at hand: the availability of the 5/8 line and the possibility of appointing Dr. Papakostas to that line if available.

*F. Seelen
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March 23, 1978

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. S. F. Yolles

FROM: Dr. Max Fink

I am writing to recommend the appointment of Dr. Leon D. Hankoff to the Department of Psychiatry, at the rank appropriate to his experience. I have known Leon for two decades, primarily as an administrative physician who headed local hospital departments of psychiatry. Three years ago, he consulted me with regard to the development of a study of the behavioral and EEG effects of hemodialysis. A grant application was prepared but was not approved. In working through the details of the protocol, I came to respect his clinical experience and judgement, and his enthusiasm for research. He is skilled in the administration of a psychiatric clinical service, has an interest in clinical research and has supported research studies of members of his staff. He would be a valuable addition to our clinical service.

He has served as a teacher at the various schools with which he has been affiliated-- Downstate Medical Center and New York Medical College, and has taught social work students. His skills as a teacher would be most useful.

It is a pleasure to recommend his appointment to a senior position in the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science.

bc

F. Letter

February 20, 1978

TO: S.F. Yolles, M.D.
From: Max Fink
Subject: Lab-Office Building

We are completely out of the Lab-Office building as of today; except for the air conditioning unit in Room #323. As soon as this is disconnected, I will arrange to have it stored in Great Neck.

Unless there is a better source of payment, I will arrange to have the move paid for from the Psychopharmacology funds at Brookdale.