

J. Letters

January 31, 1989

Michael Alan Taylor, M.D.
UHS/Chicago Medical School
3333 Green Bay Road
North Chicago, IL 60064

Dear Mickey,

At the request of Conrad Swartz, M.D., Ph.D., I am submitting this letter in support of his application for tenure. I have known Connie for about six years, mainly through his research and chiefly as an editor -- in reviewing Connie's submissions to psychiatric journals; and in his responses to my requests for reviews for CONVULSIVE THERAPY. I have observed his presentation of papers at national meetings, and have read many, if not all, of his recent publications.

Connie is well trained, intelligent, and innovative. As a graduate of the University of Iowa training programs, he has the hallmarks of a hard-headed scientist, with a dedicated reliance on data. He has shown the ability to combine unusual mathematical and engineering skills with the skills of a physician. He has contributed materially to our understanding of the convulsive therapy process, to our knowledge of neuroendocrine mechanisms, and to lithium therapy. His studies of prolactin release and the formulation of a mathematical model to estimate the amount released under different interventions provides the best estimate of central responses to seizures. Indeed, the demonstration that the amount of prolactin released by seizures is influenced by electrode placement, current type, and current dose provides an excellent index of the strength of the stimulus in ECT. His suggestion for a better way to monitor lithium therapy is innovative and promises to be useful. His models of the TRH test also seem useful. The development of the audible EEG monitor for seizure duration is innovative.

His breadth of interest is unusual. His studies are clinical, and apply his knowledge of statistics, mathematical models, pharmacokinetics, neuroendocrine systems, and alcoholism. Connie has achieved a fine national reputation for independent research with a firm mathematical and statistical base. He lectures and writes well although his style is prolix. He is highly intelligent and innovative, and is clearly a self-starter and very independent investigator. He would be a welcome member of our faculty, and I believe he has shown the skills not only to warrant his appointment as professor, but with tenure as well.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry