

November 13, 1989

Larry Koran, M.D.
Department of Psychiatry
Stanford Medical Center
Palo Alto, California 94305

Dear Larry,

Two events brought your name to mind -- a letter from my son describing the devastation on the Stanford Campus by the recent earthquake, and the enclosed letter from Dr. Howard Fenn of the Palo Alto V.A.

How did you fare during the quake? My son's letter remarked that the geology buildings were closed and no one could get in to get their records, data, or computer files. At least not during the week after the quake.

The enclosed letter came 'out of the blue'. Dr. Fenn seems to have thrown a bottled message into the U.S. post office maelstrom, and it landed on my desk. My reply is meant to encourage him to provide me with some data. Since my image of ECT at Stanford is that it hardly existed until you told me last year that you had (finally) stimulated its use, I was surprised by the letter. Do you know Dr. Fenn? Does he 'really' have cases and the facility to treat? Is there a mature sponsor at the site?

Meanwhile, our department of psychiatry has emerged, after six years of metamorphosis, into a department of neuroscience, focussed on brain cells, receptors, and genes. Our younger clinicians are all devoted laboratory scientists, with as much experience with rats, rat brain tissues, and chemicals, as with the mentally ill patients on 10 North.

How is your ECT program progressing?

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry