

December 10, 1984

Louis Jolyon West, M.D.  
Department of Psychiatry  
UCLA School of Medicine  
760 Westwood Plaza  
Los Angeles, California 90024

Dear Joly,

I am pleased to submit this letter of reference on behalf of ROBERT HUGH GERNER, M.D. who is being considered for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor in Residence III. My experience with Bob Gerner is largely through his writings. On an occasion, a few years ago, I visited him at UCLA to consult him with regard to our ongoing studies with des-Tyr-gamma-endorphin; and lately I have consulted him with regard to our CSF studies. He also presented a Grand Rounds in our Department of Psychiatry this month.

In the twelve years that he has been publishing scientific articles, he has established an outstanding record in clinical and experimental psychiatry. He is an acknowledged leader in questions of changes in the CSF of psychiatric patients during the course of their illness. He has done some of the best individual studies of the behavioral effects of beta-endorphin. His contributions to the ECT literature have been original, so much so that when I was making up a panel of assessors for a new scientific journal, CONVULSIVE THERAPY, I invited him to be a member of the editorial board.

There is a long list of co-workers as co-authors of his publications. He is a friendly and popular psychiatrist, with a pleasant personality. In his presentations, he is relaxed and exhibits a detailed knowledge of his subject matter. I estimate that he is a good teacher.

He is one of the bright young men of biological psychiatry, with established skills in research, writing, and teaching. While I can assume that he must be a good clinician from the quality of the clinical research reports, I am unable to assess this aspect of his career directly. When our new chairman was looking for some bright talent to invite to Stony Brook, our committee agreed that Bob Gerner's record was outstanding; hence, his visit to us this month.

I am pleased to recommend his promotion to Associate Professor without hesitation. He clearly meets the criteria for academic excellence for such a title at this University.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry