

*J. Sectors*

June 11, 1990

Layton McCurdy, M.D.  
American Board of Neurology & Psychiatry  
Institute of the Pennsylvania Hospital  
111 N. 49 Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19139

Dear Dr. McCurdy,

Like many of my peers, I am writing with regard to the proposed "Added Qualification in Neurophysiology" which is considered for physicians qualified in Neurology. By excluding those qualified in Psychiatry, I believe that the Board is inadvertently excluding a large number of very qualified practitioners whose skills and interest in electrophysiology complement those of their neurologic peers.

I am referring to those psychiatrists with interests in quantitative EEG in assessing the effects of psychoactive drugs; those specializing in the analysis of sleep EEG recordings; and those interested in multi-lead EEG recordings in assessing patients with affective illness who may be candidates for anticonvulsant therapies. While I am certified both in neurology and psychiatry, my work in pharmaco-electroencephalography is clearly of little interest to my neurologic colleagues, but is central to a whole discipline in psychopharmacology and psychiatry. Similarly, the work of my associate, Wallace Mendelsohn in sleep studies, which is an important asset in our psychiatric assessments.

Clinical psychiatry has undergone at least three major revolutions in my professional lifetime-- from the psychodynamic era in which I was trained at the William Alanson White Institute; to the era of psychopharmacology; then the excitement about neuroscience; and now the return to our interest in neuropsychiatry.

By limiting the 'added qualification' to that small group of practitioners who meet the criteria for Neurology would be a disservice both to clinical practice and to research opportunities which are now unfolding.

I hope that the Board will see the wisdom of either not limiting the added qualification in neurophysiology to neurologists, or doing away with the added qualification in its entirety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry  
ABPN (P54) (N52)