

October 9, 1986

Prakash N. Desai, M.D.  
Illinois Psychiatric Society  
20 North Michigan Avenue  
Suite 700  
Chicago, Il 60602

Dear Dr. Desai,

I am pleased to submit this letter of recommendation for Fellowship in the American Psychiatric Association on behalf of Professor Michael A. Taylor, whom I have known for almost two decades. I first met Mickey when he was a resident at New York Medical College. Among a group of outstanding students, he was already an independent thinker and careful worker. He designed and carried out research for which he was awarded the prestigious A.E. Bennett award of the Society of Biological Psychiatry. After a tour in the U.S. Navy, where he also published important clinical research studies, he returned to join our faculty at Stony Brook.

He took over a standard state hospital ward and within a year, it was an outstanding study and research unit. He was rapidly promoted to Associate Professor and then was invited to Chicago, where he became Professor and Chairman.

In research, he is an outstanding clinician and phenomenologist. He and his associate, Richard Abrams have led a re-assessment of the genetic and familial contributions to clinical phenomenology; the classification of schizophrenia and catatonia; and the neuropsychological consequences of subtle brain damage, both generalized and localized. Their independent thinking and data-based studies are outstanding.

In teaching, his texts are excellent. Both his Neuropsychiatric Mental Status Examination and General Hospital Psychiatry are innovative and important texts, widely used in teaching psychiatric residents. He is an outstanding lecturer.

As for his administrative abilities, these are also excellent. I watched the development of the teaching unit at the Central Islip Psychiatric Center. I have visited the units in Chicago. And, I am amazed by the continued productivity of his students and associates.

I can think of few psychiatrists in the U.S. who match Mickey's talents as a clinician, researcher, and teacher, and I recommend him heartily for fellowship.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry