

F. Letters

May 25, 1979

ADCMD for Operations (151J)
Department of Medicine and Surgery
VACO
Washington, D.C. 20420

Gentlemen:

I am pleased to write this letter on behalf of Dr. Richard D. Weiner, M.D., Ph.D., who is applying for a position as a V.A. Clinical Investigator. I have known Dr. Weiner for three years, and in this period, I have come to respect his enthusiasm and his dedication for research.

Dr. Weiner first came to my attention as a member of the American Psychiatric Association Task Force on Convulsive Therapy when he was asked to serve as a consultant for the electrical parameters of the ECT process. His report and discussions were very useful and served to expand the final report, which appeared in 1978.

I next became acquainted with his work when his application for a V.A. research grant was reviewed by the Merit Review Board of which I am a member. His application showed a good knowledge of the ECT process, and reflected his reading. The application was approved and since then I visited his laboratory. We have communicated often and I have read a number of his reports before they have been published.

Following his training in electrical engineering at M.I.T. and the University of Pennsylvania in 1973, he received his Ph.D. in neurophysiology and his M.D. from Duke University in 1973. Subsequent training at Durham in psychiatry and in electroencephalography provided the skills he needs for his present research efforts.

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In all, Dr. Weiner is a well trained scientist. He is interested in the convulsive therapy process, and his skills are directly applicable to his studies. He has a demonstrated ability to formulate a program, to write the necessary applications well, and to undertake the studies without additional supervision. He is clearly an independent investigator with the skills and enthusiasm necessary to establish a V.A. research study.

For these reasons, I am pleased to recommend his appointment as a Clinical Investigator.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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