

*J. Pellers*

March 5, 1979

Dr. L. K. George Hsu  
St. George's Hospital Medical School  
London, England

Dear Dr. Hsu,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding a position in this laboratory. At this time, we have no openings, but I will keep your application on file in the event our situation changes.

Your interest of anorexia nervosa is of special interest to me, and in this regard, I may suggest that you write to Dr. Michael Taylor, (Chairman and Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Chicago Medical School, VA Hospital, North Chicago, Illinois 60064). He has an interest in the same condition and may have a position open.

In the recent literature on anorexia nervosa, it has been unclear whether the vegetative disturbances, particularly the evidence of hypofunction of the hypothalimo-pituitary axis, are primary to the disease or secondary to the anorexia and weight loss. In a recent analysis of the mode of action of ECT, we among others have come to the conclusion that much of the thrust of the ECT process is in stimulating the hypothalmo-pituitary axis to greater release of hormonal substances. If this be true, then patients with anorexia nervosa should respond well to ECT, and the evidence in the literature are that they do. However, the reports are clinical and anecdotal and we have been unable to find any sytematic study of the effects of ECT on the course of anorexia nervosa. In your studies, have any patients received ECT? If yes, can you share the date with me-- state of subject, hormonal status, treatment schedule, outcome, etc. ?

If this problem interests you, perhaps you could apply for support for such a project in a center where such cases are available (as in Chicago or Iowa City) or New York), and defray your support by this mechanism.

I trust these comments are helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry