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*Our Mission inspires us to care for  
and improve the health of those we  
serve with a special concern for the  
sick and the poor.*

*We are called to Service of the Poor,  
Reverence, Integrity, Wisdom,  
Creativity and Dedication.*



3 February, 2006

**John Breeding, PhD**  
**Coalition for the Abolition of Electroshock in Texas**

**Dear Dr. Breeding:**

I apologize for the delay in a reply to your letter sent to Seton Board Members in December. After receiving a copy of your letter, I have spent some time talking to our Medical Staff directly involved with ECT, and have reviewed and attempted to review the references mentioned in your letter.

As Medical Director of Seton Shoal Creek Hospital, teaching faculty member of the Austin Medical Education Program, Psychiatry Section, and a clinical specialist in Bipolar Disorder, my knowledge and experience with ECT is limited to my patients who have had ECT, my psychiatry colleagues directly involved in ECT, and professional psychiatry resources. I was disappointed your letter was so politically focused with few professional references. I was hoping to educate myself further with some views I possibly have not seen. I did recently receive a copied letter from Dr. Dolan, well referenced, which I welcomed.

I affirm and reassure you of the practiced reality to Seton's Mission Statement. All of our hospitals and outpatient facilities, including our psychiatry facility, Seton Shoal Creek, are daily committed to Seton's mission and responsible to safety and quality care for our patients. I also appreciate your concern for safe, quality care for people in our community. I would like to personally visit with you and learn in more detail your views about ECT. Please contact me by phone for a mutual appointment, ph. 512-324-2040 (EA- Shirley Basinger). I look forward to our meeting.

**Paul R. Whitelock, MD**  
**Medical Director, Seton Shoal Creek Hospital**  
**Faculty, Austin Medical Education Program, Psychiatry Section**

**Cc: Charles Barnett, President/CEO, Seton Healthcare Network**