President’s Report: A Full Year
Michelle L. Imber, Ph.D., ABPP

This newsletter brings us to the close of a busy and successful academic year for MNS! Although we “weathered” many challenges—most memorably a winter that dumped a record 110.6 inches of snow on our beloved hometown, shutting down transportation and postponing several events—your Board of Directors and numerous committees have remained extremely busy on your behalf over the past twelve months. In addition to the day-to-day business of the Society—processing membership applications, balancing the books, lining up CE speakers, updating the website, and the like—we have been hard at work realizing our four Presidential Initiatives for 2014-2015. We have also worked to address the other pressing matters that have arisen over the course of the year.

Presidential Initiatives: At the 2014 Science Symposium, I outlined four areas of focus for the year. Here is an abbreviated update on our progress in all four areas.

1) Healthcare Reform. As the consequences of Chapter 224 of the Acts of 2012 continue to unfold, many government agencies are developing policies that implement these new laws. We have worked hard to ensure that neuropsychological assessment is included in

Also in this Issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Care Reform</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity Committee</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FABBS</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACFlash</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
the policymaking process. In the fall of 2014, MNS attended 10 of the Division of Insurance’s “Listening Sessions” regarding access to various behavioral health services. Between the MNS Professional Affairs Committee (PAC; attended 7 sessions) and the MNS Healthcare Reform Committee (HRC; attended 3 sessions), MNS provided input on six separate topics: neuropsychological assessment, parity, medical-necessity criteria, autism, access to behavioral health services for children, and the new universal prior authorization form presently being adopted by all carriers in the state. And after the hearings, MNS provided valuable spoken and written testimony, with a focus on educating policymakers and carriers about what we do and how it can help. Often, we were the only providers in the room! Therefore, the Office of Patient Protection (OPP) and the DOI frequently looked to our representatives to answer questions about access to behavioral health care. MNS was often asked to draw the group’s attention to outliers among carriers, so that interventions could be targeted where they were most needed.

Additionally, the HRC has been gathering news alerts and monitoring the websites and email updates from agencies involved in healthcare reform, in order to share this information with Board and the membership. In April of 2014 and again in April of 2015, HRC led an effort to provide feedback to the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission regarding the role of neuropsychological services in certification of Patient-Centered Medical Homes.

Finally, MNS sent a delegate (Past-President and PAC/HRC member Dr. Clare O’Callaghan) to the multidisciplinary, multi-agency task force working on the Universal Authorization Forms that are slated to make their debut later this year.

2) Ties with Consumer Groups. To address our missions of Advocacy and Public Education, we have been working to strengthen our relationships with groups representing consumers. As we have repeatedly been advised by senior advocates, it is vital for our advocacy efforts to speak not only for ourselves but on behalf of the patients we serve. MNS has made strides towards connecting with consumer groups. At the DOI hearings, our representatives chatted with patient advocacy groups representing those with Autism-Spectrum Disorders. Our Speakers’ Bureau continued to send emissaries to those groups requesting a talk on a particular topic, another important way for advocacy groups to put a face on neuropsychology. Incoming President Stephanie Monaghan-Blout outlined a plan for the next year that puts this goal front-and-center, so please stay tuned!

3) Interventions. To help our members position themselves competitively in emerging healthcare systems, we have executed several intervention-focused educational opportunities this year. In September, we heard from Julie Lovely, M.B.A. about equine therapy at our Paul Spiers Memorial Lecture. In October, Dr. Eric Harris updated us about risk management for neuropsychologists in the current healthcare climate. Dr. Naomi Steiner provided updates about neurofeedback in December. Our Science Symposium speaker, Dr. E. Mark Mahone, addressed implications for ADHD interventions in young children. And our final education lecture of the year featured Dr. Meghan Searl presenting about mindfulness and related interventions. Neuropsychologists are uniquely suited to provide behavioral interventions to patients with brain-related challenges, and we must continue to keep abreast of ways to provide these interventions. In the coming year, we hope to hear from a rehabilitation neuropsychologist and a health psychologist,
who can provide further specific suggestions for the provision of interventions in medical populations.

4) **Institutional Memory.** This goal, to create a “wiki” where members can share their recollections of Boards past and other historical data from the annals of MNS, has been temporarily placed on hold until this summer, when it is anticipated that our new website will be unveiled. The new site will have a place to collect this information. Anyone in possession of historical documentation for our archives can currently share this with the Electronic Communications Committee for scanning and saving on our Google Drive. Additionally, this Board has worked on an Officer Handbook that passes down valuable information from departing Board Members.

**Other Board Accomplishments, 2014-2015.**

You can find information about some of these efforts in the reports of individual committees.

- Although unplanned, a major overhaul of our existing Bylaws was necessary. Read more about this below.
- We held a Paul Spiers Memorial Lecture, at which we heard from Julie Lovely regarding a passion of our departed colleague’s, equine therapy, for September’s kickoff CE event.
- Treasury transitioned to electronic bookkeeping methods, ending years of tradition as new treasurers will no longer be greeted by boxes and boxes of binders!
- The Electronic Communications Committee has been working all year on updating our website to a new version that offers more flexibility and many more capabilities. Among the perks are the ability to collect payments more easily and to finally provide podcasts of our education lectures.
- ECC also transitioned our buggy e-mail list to a non-buggy APA server, virtually eliminating delays and errant postings.
- The Legacy Awards Committee honored Dr. Dorene Rentz with the 2015 Cermak Award and Dr. Lee Ashendorf with the Kaplan Award.
- The Board adopted a new “seal of the corporation,” a.k.a. a new logo, that will ease the process of letterhead production, make it easier to collaborate on written matters with other organizations, and eliminate confusion about the proper acronym of our Society. The logo was created by The Lone Designer, who also has been working with ECC on our new website design.
- The Membership Committee expanded options for qualified applicants who may be new to the area, practice in less-populated regions, or otherwise have trouble fulfilling our traditional application requirements (e.g., obtaining the signatures of two members).
- Dr. Sandie Shaheen took over for our longstanding and dedicated FABBS representative, Dr. Linda Zoe Podbros, and represented MNS at the annual meeting of FABBS where she had the ear of several key policymakers and scientists.
- The PAC, often in collaboration with the MPA Assessment Committee, has continued to meet with numerous local insurance carriers to improve access to neuropsychological and psychological assessment services.
- The Diversity Committee instituted a new directory of members who can serve as resources for patients and peer providers around issues of cultural competence.
- The Pearson Data Group (a joint subcommittee of the MNS PAC and the MPA Assessment Committee) is working on a manuscript of findings about test-administration time variability with clinical
populations, and has presented a poster with some initial findings at the Science Symposium. Handouts are available upon request.


- The Toolbox Subcommittee of the PAC had several neuropsychology-and-Massachusetts-specific forms vetted by Dr. Eric Harris; these forms will be made available on the new website to assist members and others with setting up their practices and maintaining HIPAA compliance.

- The Mentorship Committee kept students apprised of lectures and other mentoring opportunities.

- The Board, as a Committee of the Whole, and with the help of several volunteers, executed the Science Symposium on May 14, 2015. Dr. Adrienne West helmed the event planning.

- We honored a promise to the Membership to poll members about the Brighton-Marine location, adding this poll to our electronic ballots this year.

**Election Results:** This year’s elections comprised three domains: electing a new slate of Board Members, updating the Bylaws, and gathering member opinions about our lecture location.

1) **Board Members.** New Board members will take office on July 01, 2015. Congratulations to this exceptionally-qualified group! Special thanks to Past-President Dr. Margaret Lanca, who chaired this year’s Nominations Committee.

Dr. Mary Coakley-Welch - President-elect  
Dr. Lori Azzara - Secretary  
Dr. Patricia Lee - Member-at-Large  
Dr. Hope Schreiber - Member-at-Large  
Erica Appelman, M.A. - Student Representative  
Dr. Rachel Lawson - Student Representative

2) **Bylaws Overhaul.** Several changes to the Bylaws were proposed, including adoption of new language proposed by our attorney, Kenneth Gogel; a new membership policy that increases accessibility for qualified applicants; and reconciliation of conflicting Bylaws versions. The updated Bylaws passed by an overwhelming majority of votes, and are therefore adopted.

3) **Nonbinding Survey Question.** Two years ago, when Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital on Nashua Street closed its doors so the hospital could move to Charlestown, MNS lost its longtime home. The Board investigated several possibilities for new locations, finally settling on the Brighton-Marine Health Center on Warren St. after a vote of the membership. The Board promised to revisit the issue of location after a short while, to learn whether the new location was working out for our members. We did so in the recent election. Data are presented graphically on the next page.
IN SUM...We have had quite a full year! It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Society as your President. I leave you with one last reminder to join the Massachusetts Psychological Association and pay your dues to the APA Practice Organization, two organizations that work hard to advocate for neuropsychology and psychology in a way that complements the work of MNS. Our numbers, and our dues, really matter to them—they need us—and we really do need them! Thanks to all the volunteers—Board Members, Committee Members, student volunteers, and others who made MNS a success this year through their hard work! Thanks to Karen Jackson, our indispensable administrative assistant! And last but not least, thanks to YOU for keeping your membership up-to-date, keeping yourself informed by reading this newsletter, and supporting your local neuropsychology organization. Please keep in touch with any issues or questions that arise. Have a great summer—we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Figure 1: Stay vs. Go: Survey Respondents only. 40% expressed some desire to stay and 26% expressed some desire to leave. Data are rounded to the nearest integer for ease of presentation; this procedure artificially results in a total that exceeds 100%. Several additional members posted their desires to the e-mail list after the formal elections had closed. When these are included (not shown), 47% expressed some desire to stay and 24% expressed some desire to leave.

Figure 2: What matters to members in meeting location? From nonbinding survey in election; members were permitted to select multiple choices.
In April of 2015, the Healthcare Reform Committee (HRC) responded to the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission’s (HPC) request for comments on their proposed certification standards for Patient-Centered Medical Homes (PCMH). This was the second time MNS provided written comments to the HPC on this topic. Members of the HRC worked with the MNS Executive Committee on input. This excerpt from our submission summarizes our key points:

“So that BH (behavioral health) needs can be identified accurately and treated effectively as PCMH’s strive for improved access to care, better health outcomes, and cost-effective interventions, our suggested modifications for certification standards focus on these points:

- In addition to screening for depression and anxiety, screening cognitive functioning is essential for some patients, especially those who may benefit from care management because of complex and chronic physical and/or behavioral health (BH) conditions. Many of those patients are at risk for cognitive impairment, which can be a barrier to treatment compliance if not addressed.
- Screenings cannot replace brief or comprehensive psychological and neuropsychological evaluations when more complete and detailed information is needed to guide effective treatment and/or facilitate a patient’s treatment compliance and self-management. Maintaining networks of credentialed and qualified evaluators for brief or comprehensive psychological and neuropsychological evaluations is essential for PCMH’s.
- Treatment networks affiliated with a PCMH must include the full range of BH treatment providers and evidence-based treatment options to ensure access to appropriately targeted and effective care for BH conditions. Available treatment options should include psychotherapy, cognitive rehabilitation, and medication.
- Appropriately trained and credentialed BH clinicians must oversee screening and monitoring of behavioral health programs within PCMH’s.”

Massachusetts aims to have all primary care practices adopt the PCMH model. Anyone can now access the Behavioral Health Integration toolkit that was developed for the MA PCMH Initiative: http://pcmhlearning.ews.state.ma.us/atutor/login.php.

The toolkit includes three courses on Team Based Care, Patient Centered Interactions, and Achieving NCQA Recognition. NCQA is the National Committee for Quality Assurance, which is the top healthcare accreditation organization in the US. The Massachusetts HPC’s proposed standards draw heavily from the NCQA certification standards. The HPC is considering additional standards, as they review stakeholder input on their proposed standards for PCMH here in Massachusetts.
MNS was among 40 respondents who provided written comments.

The Massachusetts Health Policy Commission is an independent state agency, created under the 2012 state healthcare law, Chapter 224. The Governor, Attorney General, and State Auditor have appointed an 11-member board made up of public and private sector healthcare leaders with diverse areas of clinical, administrative, and economic expertise to govern the HPC. Martin Cohen, who is trained as a social worker, is the current behavioral health expert, recently appointed by AG Maura Healey. He replaced Marylou Sudders (also a social worker), who remains on the HPC ex officio as MA Secretary of Health and Human Services.

According to its webpage, the HPC is charged with developing “policy to reduce health care cost growth and improve the quality of patient care. The HPC also monitors the Commonwealth’s health care market, providing data on the impact of health care mergers, guidance for reform of the delivery and payment systems, and investments into community hospitals.” The MNS HRC has been monitoring activities of the HPC, as part of our ongoing monitoring of numerous organizations involved in the development of new healthcare delivery and payment systems. Our monitoring goals include identifying opportunities for the MNS Executive Committee to give input to policymakers, regulators, and advocacy groups and keeping the MNS Board and MNS members as up-to-date as possible on the changing healthcare environment.

---

**Healthcare Reform 2015 Spring/Summer Tip:**

Start to investigate and learn about EHRs and the Mass HIway. MA state law, Chapter 224 (the 2012 healthcare law), requires all healthcare providers to adopt interoperable EHRs that can connect via the Mass HIway by 2017. Medical practices are generally further along in adopting EHRs than most behavioral health providers, although many psychologists have adopted them, or have to use them since EHRs are used in their hospital or group practice settings. Specific regulations and guidelines for behavioral health providers have not yet been issued. The HRC will keep MNS members advised of relevant developments.

It is possible to connect to the Mass HIway now, even if you do not use an EHR system. The HIway is MA’s statewide health information exchange that allows providers to send and receive (push and pull) health information securely, regardless of which EHR a provider uses. The HIway transmits patient health information (with the patient’s permission) only; it does not store information. In the future, patients will be able to access their own records via the HIway, if they wish. Patient portal access is being tested now at several hospital pilot sites.

For more information on the HIway: [http://www.masshiway.net/HPP/index.htm](http://www.masshiway.net/HPP/index.htm)

For information from APA about EHRs for psychologists: [http://www.apapracticecentral.org/business/technology/index.aspx](http://www.apapracticecentral.org/business/technology/index.aspx)

For discussion questions and pilot templates of EHRs for neuropsychology: [http://neuropsychologytoolkit.com/report-writing](http://neuropsychologytoolkit.com/report-writing)
The Diversity Committee is growing! This year, we expanded both our work and our committee. We are delighted to welcome Dr. Emily Wilner as Co-Chair of the Diversity Committee. As a bilingual Spanish-speaker, Dr. Wilner has been conducting multilingual neuropsychological assessment for several years, and has a passion for multicultural issues in neuropsychology. She will bring enthusiasm and diligence to co-leading this committee.

This year, we have been working diligently on three on-going projects:

1) **Multicultural test toolkit:** The committee is researching and collating neuropsychological tests and measures in other languages. We plan on developing a multicultural test toolkit for MNS members detailing test names, the populations they serve, and who publishes the tests. This toolkit will be made available to our MNS members.

2) **Directory of multicultural and multilingual speakers:** The committee is developing a directory of multicultural and multilingual neuropsychologists in Massachusetts to publish on the MNS website. This directory will list providers' place of practice, insurances taken, and patient populations served. We have already advertised on the MNS e-mail list and many neuropsychologists responded. If you are a multicultural/multilingual neuropsychologist and would like to be included in this directory, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

3) **Understanding neuropsychologists’ self-perceptions of cultural competence.** The Diversity Committee is exploring changes in attendees’ self-perception of cultural competence following the 2014 MNS Cultural Summit. Last year’s attendees will be sent questionnaires assessing their current level of self-perceived cultural competence in providing neuropsychological services to multicultural populations. Our goal is to investigate whether perception of cultural competence has increased and if so, to identify the factors contributing to this improvement.

MNS Diversity Committee continues to welcome new members from the MNS community! If you would like to participate in the committee feel free to be in touch with Maggie Lanca, Ph.D. at Margaret_Lanca@hms.harvard.edu or Emily Wilner, Psy.D., at emilywilner@gmail.com.

**Committee members:**
Yakeel Quiroz, Ph.D.
Mirella Diaz-Santos, Ph.D.
Ben Rolon-Arroyo, Ph.D.
Rebecca Wershba, Ph.D.
Dear MNS Membership,

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank MNS membership and board for allowing me to serve on the Educational Committee (EdC) for the past three years. Meeting everyone has been a genuine pleasure. The new committee for MNS education will be announced soon with promise for more exciting educational and social events. A sneak preview of the next MNS EdC events are as follows:

- **Tuesday, September 8, 2015:** Dr. Douglas Watt is preparing to talk about his vigorous work on depression and neurological correlates. We are lucky that Dr. Watt is very generous with sharing his knowledge as well as his bountiful resources and manuscripts freely with MNS membership.

- **Tuesday, October 6, 2015:** Dr. Lee Ashendorf has the honor to receive the 2015 Edith Kaplan Award and he will earnestly talk about the History of the Boston Approach.

Please look to our soon-to-be updated MNS web page for EdC announcements and details! Thanks again for permitting me the opportunity to participate in MNS education and a monumental thanks for all of your support to MNS and the MNS Education Committee.

Sincerely,
Maggi Budd, Ph.D., MPH, ABPP

---

**Networking Opportunities**

The Membership Committee would like to undertake the fostering of networking for both student members, and Early Career/Post-Doc members, beyond the educational opportunities at monthly meetings. If you are either a Student or Early Career/Post-Doc member and would like to participate in an occasional social gathering, please contact Dr. Lori Azzara at leazzara@usa.net or 508-801-8441; she will coordinate events if there is sufficient interest.
The MNS Membership Committee would like to thank everyone for your outreach efforts and we encourage you to continue to help recruit colleagues and students to join MNS. We have added fifteen (15) new members since Fall 2014 and hope to continue this trend going forward. As you know, membership with MNS brings many benefits, including a partnership with MPA that offers those who are members in good standing of both MNS and MPA a 15% discount on dues for both organizations. Your dues payments are critical to help advocate for our field in these challenging and uncertain times. There has been increased advocacy for the profession both through MNS and MPA over the past year, but we still have a long ways to go and much more advocacy to do. There truly is strength in numbers. Be assured that MNS is working hard to educate and prepare our members for changes in our practice climate as a result of healthcare reform, and continues to advocate vigorously for an optimal practice climate. It is exhilarating to have such a vibrant community of neuropsychologists in Massachusetts (and beyond); the Society looks forward to continued growth in 2015, and beyond. The breakdown of accepted new members since December 1, 2014 is as follows:

- 2 Regular Members
- 3 Associate Members
- 4 Early Career/Post-Doc members
- 6 Student members

Please recall that our dues fee structure changed for 2014, and going forward, dues for each year are due by December 31st of each calendar year. Additionally, if a MNS member has not renewed their membership in the past three (3) years, a new membership application must be completed (please note that you are reapplying if this applies to you).

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming MNS events.

---

Could you be a Lifetime Member?

This summer, the Membership Committee would like to update the current membership listing – specifically looking at members who now qualify for **Lifetime Membership**. Lifetime Membership, as defined by the MNS Bylaws, includes members who have reached age 65 and who have continuously been Regular Members in good standing for 10 or more years. These members will have the same rights and privileges of the Regular Members. If you are not currently considered a Lifetime Member and believe you meet the criteria, please contact Dr. Lori Azzara: leazzara@usa.net or 508-801-8441.
Mentoring Program Update
Benjamin Rolon-Arroyo, M.S., MNS Student Representative

MNS is excited to continue offering its mentoring program to student members. Students interested in the mentoring program should contact our 2015-2016 student representatives, Rachel Lawson, Psy.D., and Erica Appleman, M.A., as they will help you get connected with one of our mentors.

In addition, we had an amazing year of student seminars organized by the Boston University’s Neuropsychology Group. We would like to thank all the speakers who shared their research, clinical experiences, and professional endeavors with our graduate students each month.

We would like to thank the BU Neuropsychology Group for these learning and professional networking opportunities. Make sure to stay tuned for next year’s seminars.
Nominations Sought for MNS Legacy Awards
Sandra Shaheen, Ph.D.

MNS is honoring the work of Lee Ashendorf, Ph.D., with the 2015 Kaplan award. He collaborated with Edith Kaplan, and with Rod Swenson and David Libon to publish The Boston Process Approach to Neuropsychological Assessment, A Practitioner's Guide for Oxford Press in 2013. Lee came to the Bedford VA in 2005 when his collaboration with Dr. Kaplan began. Dr. Ashendorf plans to speak to MNS at the October 2015 meeting at Brighton Marine Hospital. This award was established as a tribute to Dr. Kaplan during her active years, and is awarded to a clinician or researcher who furthers understanding of the “process approach” in neuropsychology. Lee is known to many colleagues as the coordinator of the annual Science Symposium Poster Session.

Dorene Rentz, Psy.D., addressed MNS members in April with a review and update on her work “Detecting Cognitive and Behavioral Evidence of Preclinical Alzheimer's Disease: Lessons Learned from the Harvard Aging Brain Study.” Dr. Rentz was a past president and major contributor to MNS Education and Legacy Awards committees. Dorene was nominated for her exemplary work in the application of cognitive science to the study of clinical memory disorders in which Laird Cermak was a pioneer, leader, and mentor. Dr. Rentz is currently co-Director of the Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and the Director of Neuropsychology at the Massachusetts Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at MGH.

2014 Kaplan Awardee Dr. Dawn Bowers hopes to reschedule her address to members early in 2016.

The Legacy Awards Committee, Lee Ashendorf, Maxine Krengel, and Sandra Shaheen, welcome nominations for Cermak and Kaplan prizes among members or other collaborators of these pioneers. Nominations can be directed to any BOD member, or to longwoodneuro@earthlink.net.

Charter High School Seeks Pediatric Neuropsychologist
Stephanie Monaghan-Blout, Psy.D.

As incoming MNS President for 2015-2016, one of my priority initiatives is increasing community involvement and outreach for MNS. I am pleased to announce this opportunity for a neuropsychologist to provide community-based assessments.

Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School in Lowell, MA is seeking a pediatric neuropsychologist to complete state/school-funded evaluations on-site for 14- and 15- year-old students. Volume will likely be about one evaluation per month during the school year. Thank you to member Dr. Otto Judicke for alerting us to this opportunity.

If interested, please contact me backchannel: smonaghan@nesca-newton.com
How MNS became a member of the Federation of Applied Brain and Behavior Sciences (FABBS)
Sandra Shaheen, Ph.D.

MNS had a unique opportunity in December, and again in April, to meet with Fay Cook, Northwestern economist and new director of the National Science Foundation Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences. Psychology has a small and shrinking budget through NSF, and further cuts were planned through Congress as part of an agenda on the part of some lawmakers to challenge the value and import of behavioral sciences. FABBS is working on a number of fronts to improve emphasis on the behavioral sciences in the national agenda and budget. Sandra Shaheen, who recently took over the pioneering work of Linda Podbros as representative to FABBS, had the opportunity to outline the relevance of neuropsychological research and methods in understanding conditions such as Alzheimer’s and autism, which are among the targets of Obama’s BRAIN initiative efforts.

For over 20 years, FABBS founding societies, including APA, NAN, and several academic societies (e.g., Psychonomics, Behavioral Endocrinology, Developmental Psychology), have worked to educate Congress on the contributions of psychological research. There have been Science Cafés, where congresspersons and staff can hear TED-talk-like presentations from researchers, to educate them on the issues. There is an effort among FABBS members to include behavioral science in STEM curriculum on a national level. However, in the current Congress, there is danger of further dramatic funding cuts for behavioral science, even within the BRAIN initiative, in favor of engineering and computational models of brain networks and function.

MNS became a member Society of FABBS during Joel Rosenbaum’s tenure on the Board of Directors, almost a decade ago. Dr. Rosenbaum had worked to resurrect the Professional Affairs Committee, in response to clinician needs for representation with insurers and other players in health care. At the same time, he and the MNS Board recognized the need to offer value in membership to the researchers in MNS who were more greatly impacted by support at the national level for funding. The Federation, as it was called at that time, was and is a remarkable organization which brings voices of top psychologists to the table in Washington. While MNS joined initially to give a louder voice to research members, the work of FABBS has implications for all behavioral health clinicians, and to society.
Science Symposium 2015: The Rundown
Michelle L. Imber, Ph.D., ABPP, MNS President

The Date: Thursday, May 14, 2015, from 5-10 PM
The Place: Boston Marriott Long Wharf
The Speaker: E. Mark Mahone, Ph.D., ABPP
The Keynote Address: “ADHD and the Need for Speed: Implications for Intervention and Lessons Learned from Incomplete Treatment”
The Registration Tally: 105

The Winner of the 2015 Outstanding Service to the Profession Award:
Sandra Shaheen, Ph.D., ABPdN, for her contributions to five committees and her sage counsel to the Board of Directors

The Winner of the new 2015 Exceptional Contributions to the Society Award:
Rachel Lawson, Psy.D., for her incredible dedication to the Education Committee and for all her help in ensuring that our events run smoothly

Poster-Session Organizer: Lee Ashendorf, Ph.D.
The Poster Judges: Anthony Giuliano, Ph.D.
Karen Postal, Ph.D., ABPP
Hope Schreiber, Psy.D., ABPP

The Winner of the 2015 Nelson Butters Award for Best Poster:
Michael J. Figuccio, for Figuccio, M., Andrade P., Andrade, O., & Gaab, N. Music Perceptual Abilities Predict Reading and Writing Skills in Young Readers: A Longitudinal Study.

Honorable Mention for the 2015 Nelson Butters Award:
Vivian T. Ho, for Ho, V.T., Kark, S.M., Yee, M.K., Pascual-Leone, A., & Bogdanova, Y. Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation improves cognitive function and neuropsychiatric symptoms in blast TBI.
PACFlash: Update from the Professional Affairs Committee
Jeffrey B. Sheer, Ph.D., ABPP-CN, PAC Co-Chair, PACFlash Editor
Roger F. Cohen, Ph.D., PAC Co-Chair

Over the past several months, the MNS PAC has continued to move forward in several areas to advocate for our profession, our members, and the patients/clients that we serve. Here are some highlights of our current activities:

1) Pearson Assessment project: As previously reported, a joint MNS-MPA collaborative is conducting data analysis and research with data provided by Pearson on the time required to administer neuropsychological measures to clinical populations. At this point, many analyses have been completed and some preliminary findings were presented at this year’s Science Symposium. The group is currently adapting their manuscript in preparation for journal submission.

2) Division of Insurance Information Sessions: The MNS PAC along with members of the MPA Assessment Committee are continuing to follow-up on discussions with the Division of Insurance (DOI) related to our concerns about inconsistencies and inappropriate limitations in existing medical necessity criteria (MNC) as well as the management of MNC by insurance companies in the Commonwealth that potentially limit access to care. We would like to thank all who submitted redacted denial letters that we requested, and will keep you updated on this process as it continues to evolve.

3) Massachusetts Health Care Administration Simplification Collaborative: The Mass Collaborative has been developing uniform prior authorization forms for clinical services covering a broad range of medical/psychological assessment and treatment services. Dr. Clare O’Callaghan of the MNS PAC volunteered, and was appointed by the MNS Executive Board, to be the representative of MNS in the Mass Collaborative.

4) Uniform Prior Authorization Form for Psychological and Neuropsychological Assessment: Over the past six months, Dr. Michael Goldberg, Director of Professional Affairs (DPA) of MPA, has been instrumental in drafting a new Universal Prior Authorization Form for Psychological and Neuropsychological Assessment (UPA) to be adopted by all insurance companies in the Commonwealth regulated by DOI. Members of the MNS PAC and the MNS Healthcare Reform Committee were involved in the initial stages of drafting the UPA and then again in the final stages. The final draft of this proposed form was also officially supported by the MNS Executive Board.

This June, we attended and participated in two additional DOI sessions which focused on discussions about the three new uniform prior authorization forms under consideration, including the one for Psychological and Neuropsychological Assessment. The Deputy Commissioner has confirmed that the DOI is adopting these forms, and that all insurance companies in Massachusetts regulated by the DOI will be required to adopt them. The current estimate is that the DOI will issue regulations this summer, and that the new forms will be implemented beginning 90 days later, with an estimated roll-out date in mid-fall.
5) Advocacy with Insurance Companies: Various subgroups of the MNS/MPA Joint Advocacy Group, which includes members of the MNS Professional Affairs Committee, the MPA Assessment Committee, and others from MPA and MNS, have continued to meet with insurance companies to discuss the management of psychological and neuropsychological benefits and access to care for insurance subscribers. Some highlights are as follows:

**Beacon Health Strategies:** Members have met regularly with representatives of Beacon Health Strategies, which is in partnership with the GIC, Neighborhood Health Plan (NHP), Fallon Health Care, Senior Whole Health, and Boston Medical Center HealthNet (BMC HealthNet) for the management of behavioral health benefits. As with all of our advocacy work, the purpose of these meetings has been to identify and address obstacles to the citizens of Massachusetts having access to the full range of psychological and neuropsychological assessment and treatment services, including services that address medical conditions as well as services that address behavioral/mental health issues. These meetings have been collegial, collaborative, and very fruitful. We recently provided an update, via email to the MNS and MPA e-mail lists, regarding these discussions. This included a flowchart of where specifically in this partnership providers should submit requests for prior authorization and submit bills.

**Tufts Associated Health Plans:** In the course of participating in the September-December 2014 discussions at the DOI Listening Sessions, our representatives met with representatives of Tufts AHP, who agreed to resume regular meetings with MNS and MPA to address concerns related to Medical Necessity Criteria, Prior Authorization, and other healthcare access issues. As of this writing, members of the MPA/MNS Joint Advocacy Group have met with representatives from Tufts on two occasions to discuss issues with their prior authorization process and their MNC. They have agreed to major changes to their prior authorization process, in addition to those changes that will be required by the Uniform Prior Authorization Form, which we will review in a separate communication to our members as soon as Tufts confirms they are putting those changes into effect. We have also presented them with proposals and references for their use in revising their MNC. They have asked us to submit some additional suggestions and told us to expect that they will contact us for further consultation in mid-July. Our next scheduled in-person meeting is in October.

**MassHealth-CHIA Conference:** Drs. Kira Armstrong, Roger Cohen, and Cathleen Crider, representing MNS and MPA, were invited to attend a joint conference of Mass Health and the Center for Health Information and Analysis. This conference was set up as part of a MassHealth initiative to review and update 113 CMR 29.00, which contains the state Regulations on Psychological Services. 113 CMR 29.00 applies to all neuropsychological and psychological assessment services contracted by state agencies, including, e.g., MassHealth, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, and public schools contracting with us for independent assessments. This entire effort was prompted by concerns at CHIA that school systems are not able to attract neuropsychologists and psychologists to provide independent evaluations as part of the school Team Evaluation Process due to market forces. Our members joined Mr. William Crane, a highly respected former Hearing Officer for the Board of Special Education Appeals and current volunteer in
the Massachusetts Advocates for Children, in making the case for revising 113 CMR 29.00 to address the full ranges of concerns about the limitations it currently imposes on access to neuropsychological and psychological assessment services.

Stay Tuned for the “GETTING TO YES” Conference: Members of the MNS PAC and MPA Assessment Committee have been working with various insurance companies to organize a Conference/Panel Discussion specifically devoted to how neuropsychologists and psychologists can more effectively communicate the medical necessity of assessments for which we are seeking prior authorization – and with much less time and effort. The Conference/Panel Discussion will also provide training in how to use the new Uniform Prior Authorization Form for Psychological and Neuropsychological Assessment. It is our goal to have this organized as a joint MNS/MPA conference offered during the fall of 2015.

2014-2015 Board of Directors

Executive Board
President: Michelle L. Imber, Ph.D., ABPP
President-Elect: Stephanie Monaghan-Blout, Psy.D.
Past-President: Margaret Lanca, Ph.D.
Secretary: Nancy P. Moczynski, Ph.D., ABPP
Treasurer: Kelly C. Karl, Psy.D.
Treasurer-Elect: Brendan C. Lynch, Ph.D.

Members-At-Large
Lori Azzara Psy.D.
Maggi Budd, Ph.D., ABPP-RP
Roger F. Cohen, Ph.D.
Anya Potter, Ph.D.
Jeffrey B. Sheer, Ph.D., ABPP
Emily K. Wilner, Psy.D.

Student Board Members
Benjamin Rolon-Arroyo, M.S.
Adrienne West, Ph.D

6) Toolbox Subcommittee: As previously reported, the Toolbox Subcommittee under the leadership of Dr. Carol Leavell has drafted a series of HIPAA documents and other resources related to the management of professional practice of neuropsychology. At this point, many of these documents have been reviewed by Attorney Eric Harris, and they will be officially available on the new website.

INTERESTED IN PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS? JOIN US! MNS as an organization, with the continued work of MNS PAC as well as the MNS Healthcare Reform Committee, continues to be dedicated to advocating for the profession of neuropsychology. The greater the participation by our members, the more we can undertake and accomplish. If you have an idea about a project for the PAC, or would like to become more involved in our advocacy efforts, please feel free to contact Dr. Sheer and Dr. Cohen. Member participation has driven many of our most productive ideas, and we’ll look forward to hearing from you!

Thank You!

MNS would like to again thank our sponsors for the 2015 Science Symposium: