MNS PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

Margaret Lanca, Ph.D.

Destiny is not matter of chance. It is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for; it is a thing to be achieved.

-William Jennings Bryan

These last few years have been both challenging and exciting times for the field of neuropsychology. With the advent of national healthcare reform, and the transformation of many Massachusetts health care systems to Accountable Care Organizations, neuropsychologists have been pressured to adapt to the changing climate. These adaptations have not been easy. We have heard from many of our members that neuropsychology is getting squeezed. Productivity requirements have increased, neuropsychology services have been streamlined in clinics and hospitals, and reimbursements by third party payers have decreased. Simultaneously, the public’s awareness and demand for neuropsychological services continues to grow rapidly and there is greater widespread appreciation for the work that we do.

Report of the Healthcare Reform Committee

Claudia B. Rutherford, PhD, Committee Chair
Mary Coakley-Welch, PhD, Committee Manager

In light of accelerating changes under the Affordable Care Act and Massachusetts’ Chapter 224 payment reform initiative, the MNS Board of Directors created a Healthcare Reform Committee (HRC) earlier this year to help keep the Board and membership abreast of important developments. The committee kicked off in June 2013 with a meeting of volunteer members to identify priorities and develop an action plan.

The Committee’s primary goal is to stay informed about policy developments within the state in order to advise the MNS Board of Directors regarding opportunities to weigh in on how to maintain patient access to neuropsychological services as reforms are implemented. The Committee has identified key organizations and commissions to monitor. Members of the HRC are keeping close tabs on these resources. Additionally, the Committee has identified commissions that will advise the state on various aspects of healthcare delivery as MA Chapter 224 is implemented. MNS President Dr. Maggie Lanca is submitting applications for MNS member volunteers to sit on these Commissions.

As a result of HCR monitoring efforts, MNS leadership submitted input regarding neuropsychological and psychological services to two state task forces: (1) for the final Behavioral Health Integration Task Force report to the MA Legislature and the MA Health Policy...
We are certainly in a challenging position in our history.

In response, many members have turned to MNS to request support and even volunteer time to organize efforts to respond to professional pressures. Our society’s mission has expanded. Historically, we were largely an educational society providing members with continuing education and informing the public about our profession. In the past five years, our professional advocacy effort has grown exponentially. The Professional Affairs Committee is our largest committee, and recently was re-configured into several sub-committees to accommodate the various divergent initiatives (e.g., from insurance advocacy to professional toolbox). Last year, MNS formally added an Electronic Communications Committee to meet the need for greater website services and increase visibility through social media. A Diversity Committee was also added to embrace greater diversity in our society and improve diversity training for our members. This year, MNS proudly incorporates a Health Reform Committee, whose mission is to educate our community about the impact of health care changes to our profession, and advocate for the viability of our profession at the Massachusetts State House.

MNS is committed to meet the challenges of mounting professional pressures in the state and nationwide to advocate for the viability of our profession. As we kick off the 2013-2014 year, I am excited by the many current MNS initiatives. We have several advocacy efforts on-going with multi-state neuropsychology organizations that can impact our profession nationally. The coming years will be a crucial time to shape our destiny and redefine the field. As you read the rest of this report, you will learn about the breadth of the work at the MNS, comprised of so many dedicated MNS members. I am thankful to our MNS members who work tirelessly for this organization.

In closing, I wish you all happy holidays, and look forward to seeing many of you at our monthly continuing education lectures.

Diversity Committee Update
Mirella Díaz-Santos, MA
MNS Student Representative

The MNS Diversity Committee had a great first year. In the spring, we joined forces with Boston University’s Neuropsychology Group to submit a proposal to the American Psychological Association’s (APA) Commission on Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention and Training in Psychology (CEMRRAT). The goal of the proposal was to “Promote multicultural training to both students and professionals by providing tangible tools in a one-day summit that increase competence, commitment, and confidence to deliver neuropsychological services to ethnic minority individuals.”

We are proud to announce that we are recipients of the 2013 CEMRRAT Implementation Grants Fund (IGF)! The summit will be a unique opportunity in diversity training for trainees and professionals. It will be organized according to D.W. Sue and colleagues’ (1992) cultural competence conceptual framework, which characterizes cultural competency into three distinct components: (a) cultural awareness and beliefs, (b) cultural knowledge, and (c) cultural skills. The goals of the summit will be to increase: (1) more awareness of personal, professional, and cultural biases that negatively affect ethnic minority groups, immigrants and refugees, (2) greater commitment on the socio-political history, culture and norms of different ethnic groups, (3) the interpersonal skills necessary for working with ethnically diverse groups, and (4) the knowledge about the available neuropsychological tools and norms. We are currently in the planning stages of the Cultural Competence Summit: Promoting Multicultural Training for Neuropsychologists, which will be held in the Spring, 2014. Stay tuned for more details!

As a diversity committee, we also aim to increase public and professional awareness about diversity in neuropsychology, which is crucial for training cultural competence in our field. In October 2013, delegates from the MNS’s Diversity committee presented at Boston College’s Diversity
Challenge. This conference, organized by Dr. Janet Helms, PhD, provided a forum to discuss the intersection between culture, race, ethnicity, brain functioning and cognition. Drs. Margaret Lanca, Sigmund Hough, and Yelena Bogdanova held a structured discussion about the importance of race and culture in neuropsychological evaluations, treatment and research.

We look forward to another exciting year. If you are interested in joining the Diversity Committee, or have an idea about a project, please feel free to contact Dr. Maggie Lanca, Chair of the Diversity Committee.

Other current work of the Committee includes compiling articles and documents that may be useful in education efforts moving forward, and advising MNS members of CE programs related to new healthcare delivery models.

This Committee is open to all MNS members and we welcome new members! Contact Committee Chair Dr. Claudia Rutherford to join (claudia.rutherford@gmail.com). We offer a variety of ways to stay involved, many of them electronically, so you can participate regardless of where you are located in the state. In fact, this committee works best by having coverage from volunteers throughout the state, so as to better keep our fingers on the pulse of what is going on. Even if you cannot join the Committee, please contact us with news you hear about healthcare reform developments and changes in healthcare delivery systems – we need all eyes and ears helping MNS stay up to date. Visit our web page to learn more about the Committee and to access information regarding healthcare changes at the state and national level: http://www.massneuropsych.org/committees/healthcare-reform

MNS Board of Directors

President
Margaret Lanca, Ph.D.

President-elect
Michelle L..Imber, Ph.D., ABPP-CN

Past President
Karen Postal, Ph.D., ABPP-CN

Secretary
Nancy Moczynski, Ph.D., ABPP-CN

Treasurer
Kelly Karl, Psy.D.

Members-At-Large
Lori Azzara Psy.D.
Maggi Budd, Ph.D., ABPP-CN
Roger F. Cohen, Ph.D.
Malissa Kraft, Psy.D., ABPP-CN
Joseph Moldover, Psy.D., ABPP-CN
Anya Potter, Ph.D.
Claudia B. Rutherford, Ph.D.

Student Board Members
Mirella Diaz-Santos, M.A.
Adrienne West, Ph.D.

Administrative Assistant
Ms. Karen Jackson

Commission and (2) to the Massachusetts Health Homes Initiative project.
In other work, the Healthcare Reform Committee crafted a Description of Clinical Neuropsychology that can be used in healthcare policy education and advocacy efforts directed toward public policy makers and shapers. The statement is designed to describe clearly and simply what we do; how we have always contributed to integrated care; and how our work helps to advance goals of healthcare reform. Neuropsychology and other psychology services have much to offer patients and other healthcare professionals in achieving the *Triple Aim* of healthcare reform: **efficient, cost-effective** delivery of **quality healthcare** that results in **better health outcomes** for patients.
Healthcare Reform Fall 2013 Tip

Exactly how healthcare delivery will end up is not known. That things are changing is definite. Referral patterns will very likely change with implementation of integrated care models. Talk to your referral sources NOW about (A) what they are doing differently; (B) what they are thinking about doing differently; (C) how your services can help them take care of their particular patients’ health needs; and (D) how you can strengthen your affiliation and communication with them to work...

MNS Membership Update
Malissa Kraft, Ph.D., ABPP

Although our overall paid membership numbers were down in 2013, we have welcomed several new members over the past few months. For additional information on membership or for a membership application, please see the MNS webpage.

~ A reminder that your dues are critical to the maintenance of our organization. Please note that our dues fee structure has changed for 2014 and your dues are due by Dec. 31, 2013. A late fee will be assessed if you pay after this date.

~ The Board of MNS would like to welcome the following new members in the latter half of 2013. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming MNS events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regular Members</th>
<th>Student Members</th>
<th>Post-Doc/Early Career Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angeles Cheung, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Laura Adamic</td>
<td>Rachel Andalon, Psy.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Fanton, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Liorah Sabbah</td>
<td>Lindsay Miarmi, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Komal Ramchandani, Psy.D.</td>
<td>Hannah Gogel</td>
<td>Emily Wilner, Psy.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Parks-Cohen, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Sarah Scott</td>
<td>Sarah Ward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Noah Bluestone</td>
<td>Sara Monti</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please look to our forthcoming PAC-Flash for a detailed update on the activities of our Professional Affairs Committee!
New MNS Member Benefit

MNS recently concluded negotiations with Pearson to arrange special benefits for our members for Q-Interactive. We are very happy to announce that Pearson has offered MNS members a 50% discount for Q-Interactive for the 2014 calendar year.

As many of you know, Q-Interactive is an initiative by Pearson to transition the administration and scoring of many neuropsychological tests to a tablet-based platform. Details may be found here: [http://www.helloq.com/home.html](http://www.helloq.com/home.html)

There are several costs involved in the use of Q-Interactive for practitioners. Just as we must buy test forms for traditional assessment there is a per-use charge for administration of electronic tests. In addition, there is an annual membership fee which varies based on the number of licensed obtained by a site (i.e., a single-use license for a solo practitioner versus a multi-use license for a group) as well as on the number of test instruments the site wishes to access. Details on pricing are available here: [http://www.helloq.com/overview/pricing.html](http://www.helloq.com/overview/pricing.html)

Pearson is offering members of MNS a 50% discount on a Q-interactive license for 2014 (to start at time of purchase and end December 31, 2014) which provides access to the instruments of the member’s choice available now or coming in 2014 on Q-interactive. In order to avail yourself of this offer you may follow the following steps:

**ORDERING Q-INTERACTIVE USING THE MNS OFFER**

Step 1: Decide which type of license you would like and which tests on Q-interactive that you would like to have access to on your license. You can visit HelloQ.com/home for complete details or contact Michael Grau, your Pearson representative, at 518-557-2626 or email at Michael.grau@pearson.com if you need assistance.

Step 2: Be prepared to tell Customer Support that you would like to purchase Q-interactive and to apply EFFORT CODE: MNS to your order to ensure you receive the appropriate discount. They will need to know:
   A. If you want an individual license or a site license (for multiple users)
   B. Which tests you want access to on your license (WISC, WAIS, etc.)
   C. Estimated usage (if you are purchasing a site license)

Step 3: Contact Customer Support to place your order
   Phone: 1-800-627-7271