President’s Report

Karen Spangenberg Postal, PhD, ABPP

Dear MNS colleagues. We have had a great start to the year, and I wanted to alert you to three initiatives in play over the next several months.

Neuropsychology and Healthcare Reform: MNS is focused on ensuring that neuropsychology emerges from the evolving healthcare reforms as a strong, successful player in healthcare. We are in the midst of a year-long series of workshops co-sponsored by MNS and MPA to educate ourselves on the new rules of the game, and envision ways that we can alter our practices to provide higher quality care with greater efficiency, in a manner that helps our physician colleagues do the same. Thank you to all who participated in the 10/27 Stakeholder’s Conference on Neuropsychological and Psychological Report Writing.

Continued Muscular Advocacy: We had the type of substantial legislative win this summer with the Transparency Bill that garnered national attention from psychologists and neuropsychologists interested in ensuring that there is real evidence in evidence-based medicine. Over the next few months, we will be monitoring how regulations are written.

One of our most powerful partners in engaging in advocacy is MPA. MPA’s dedicated lobbyists and connection to the APA legal team are very important in ensuring that our advocacy agenda is executed successfully. We therefore want to see as many MNS members as possible join MPA so that our advocacy partnership can continue. To this end, we have developed a joint membership discount. Beginning the next renewal cycle, any MNS member that joins MPA will get a 15% discount on both memberships, and vice versa.

Diversity initiative: I am very proud that the MNS board is engaged in developing a diversity initiative for the organization. Here’s why I think this is such a win for our profession:

Over time, individuals of diverse ethnic backgrounds will represent an increasingly larger percentage of the population of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. If neuropsychology is to remain relevant as a profession dedicated to understanding brain-behavior relationships in healthcare, education and forensic arenas, greater emphasis has to be placed on research, training, and ongoing professional development that furthers our understanding of neuropsychological assessment in diverse cultural and other contexts. As the proportion of individuals of diverse backgrounds increases in the population, the practice of "referring out" assessments of individuals whose ethnic/cultural or other backgrounds are different from the assessing neuropsychologist’s will be impractical and result in an untenable backlog for culturally fluent neuropsychologists.

So far, a diversity committee has been created, designed to be central to the MNS leadership structure, consisting of members of the MNS BOD executive committee, one student representative, and any other interested MNS members. Throughout the year, the MNS BOD and diversity
The recent passage of Chapter 224 of the Acts of 2012,"An Act Improving the Quality of Health Care and Reducing Costs Through Increased Transparency, Efficiency and Innovation” marked several broad changes in the landscape of health care in the Commonwealth. Among its many provisions lies an important leap forward for the scientific integrity of criteria used to make decisions about medical necessity. Dr. Michelle L. Imber, chair of the MNS Professional Affairs Committee and current member of the MPA/MNS Joint Advocacy Committee, sat down with some of psychology’s busiest advocates to bring you a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the unexpected twists and turns of the advocacy process, the recent history of psychology’s contributions to health care reform, and why dozens of heads are better than one. Please take a few minutes to read the appended narrative!

**Membership Update**

Malissa Kraft, PhD, ABPP

The MNS Membership Committee has been thrilled with the growth we’ve seen in the latter half of 2012. Over the past 2-3 months we have received 10 new membership applications, half of which are students. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in recruiting new members. It is so exciting to have such a vibrant community of neuropsychologists in Massachusetts (and beyond) and we look forward to continued growth in 2013.

You can renew your MNS membership online anytime at [www.massneuropsychology.org](http://www.massneuropsychology.org). If you renew your membership prior to 2/1/13, you will pay the same rate as last year—good motivation to renew early! New for 2013, MNS is pleased to announce that we will be collaborating with the Massachusetts Psychological Association to offer discounted membership to MPA. MNS Members who are in good standing will receive a 15% discount on MPA dues. In these challenging times for our field, please consider joining MNS or renewing your membership to MNS and helping us to recruit new members. There truly is strength in numbers.

MNS welcomes the following new members for Fall 2012:

Frederick Kadushin  
Melinda Kulish  
Charles Patten  
Jennifer Jurik  
Courtney Joly-Lowdermilk  
Mary Putnam  
Adrienne West  
Richard Root  
Fernanda Lucchese  
Dmitry Meyerson
We look forward to seeing you all at upcoming MNS events!

Mentoring Program Update
Yelena Bogdanova, PhD

The MNS Mentoring Program Committee would like to thank all MNS members who joined the Mentoring Program this year for their contribution to the program development and for participation in the program activities and events.

The MNS Mentoring Program is happy to announce the 2012 - 2013 Student Lecture Series in collaboration with the Boston University Neuropsychology Graduate Students organization. The first Student Lecture Series event, entitled “Overview of Forensic Neuropsychology” was presented by the MNS member, Dr. Paul Spiers. The Mentoring Program received a tremendously positive feedback from the student attendees, who found the lecture “amazing” and “very informative”. Please visit our website for the upcoming MNS Student Lecture Series events schedule.

We also would like to welcome the students who attended the Student Lecture Series this Fall and decided to join MNS!

The Mentoring Program goals are to facilitate the mentees involvement in the society and to provide the students and trainees with opportunities for interaction with senior members through workshops, lectures and mentoring events. One of the unique features of the MNS Mentoring Program is the mentor-mentee match program for clinical and research mentoring. This year, several students requested mentoring opportunities in pediatric neuropsychology, cognitive rehabilitation, and clinical research through the Mentoring Program. Several MNS members have already matched and provide on-line mentoring and/or host student volunteers at their research sites. We appreciate your time and sharing your experience and expertise!

We continue to invite all MNS members to participate in the MNS Mentoring Program and to help students to succeed in starting and building their careers.

Call for Mentors

MNS members at all career levels are invited to join the MNS Mentoring Program. Please register to become a Mentor and support the future generation of neuropsychologists.

Log-in to learn more & register at: www.massneuropsych.org/member-center/mentoring-program

or send your registration to Dr. Yelena Bogdanova or Dr. Anya Potter at: mentor@massneuropsych.org
MNS Board of Directors
Fall 2012
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Continuing Education Update
Stephanie Monaghan-Blout, Psy.D.
Mary Coakley-Welch, Ph.D.

The Continuing Education Committee has had a busy, event-filled fall with many new ventures to provide members with a variety of opportunities to advance their professional knowledge. The 2012-13 season started with a presentation by the recipient of the 2012 Edith Kaplan Award, Dr. Deborah Fein. Her presentation was entitled “Can Children with Autism Recover?”. We celebrated Dr. Kaplan’s legacy with a reception for Dr. Fein on a gorgeous September evening on Spaulding’s outdoor patio. In October, Dr. Andrew Budson spoke on "Using the New Criteria to Diagnose Alzheimer's Disease and Mild Cognitive Impairment”. The audience and Dr. Budson enjoyed an especially lively exchange throughout his presentation. The November lecture featured Dr. Bradford Dickerson and Dr. Kimiko Domoto-Reilly speaking on "Brain-Behavior Relationships in Frontotemporal Dementia”. Participants expressed great thanks for their comprehensive look at FTD’s symptoms, sub-types, neurology, and management strategies for caregivers. In December, we will be entertaining Dr. Stacy Drury, presenting "Rethinking the Impact of Childhood Trauma: A Neurodevelopmental Approach.” Dr. Drury brings us her expertise on the influence of genetics, epigenetics, and neural mechanisms in trauma outcomes.

In addition to our own Continuing Education offerings, MNS is building on last spring’s inaugural workshop of the Joint MNS-MPA Healthcare Reform Series to present three more workshops addressing contemporary issues in the practice of neuropsychology. The first of the series, which took place at the Brighton Marine Center on October 27, was sponsored by MNS. Co-chairs Dr. Claudia Rutherford and Dr. Karen Postal brought together physicians from various disciplines for a "Stakeholders Conference on Neuropsychological and Psychological Report Writing: Perspectives on Necessary and Sufficient Elements of Assessment Reports from our Colleagues in Medicine.” Dr. Maggie Lanca updated the audience on electronic medical records and alerted us that electronic systems for our reports are still in development, presenting us an opportunity to shape that course. We look forward to following up this event with Dr. Postal’s, Dr. Lanca’s and Dr. Rutherford’s analysis of data from surveys being distributed to physicians, neuropsychologists, and patients, and with an in-house, MNS forum to re-envision our craft of report-writing for current realities.
The second day of the series was sponsored by MPA and also took place at Brighton Marine Center on November 10. The morning presentation featured consumers of pediatric evaluation services, discussing "Writing Better Pediatric Assessment Reports: Learning through Listening to Our Colleagues." The afternoon offering, entitled "The Train is Leaving the Station: Get on board with Models of Integrative/Collaborative Treatment that Work between Psychologists and Other Healthcare Providers," presented information regarding treatment roles for psychologists in new, integrated healthcare delivery models.

We are excited to announce a new resource for professional development. Starting with our December talk, MNS members and others will be able to download a podcast of our CE lectures. This idea was suggested by, and will be implemented by, long-time member Bob Ferguson. Thanks to Bob for advancing this timely suggestion. Look for more details on the MNS website, www.massneuropsych.org.

Finally, we ask that our members take a moment to thank all of the students who help to make our monthly meeting run smoothly by checking people in, taking care of the AV equipment and distributing CE certificates. We would particularly like to recognize Haley Trontel, MA, our Registration Assistant, and Charlie Patten, BA, our Audiovisual Coordinator.

**Electronic Communications Committee**

There is a new 21st century MNS Committee!!! Our current Past-President, Dr. Sigmund Hough, has had the foresight to solidify the foundation for our electronic future by establishing the MNS Electronic Communications Committee. Not so long ago, an earlier Board of Directors wisely developed our website and listserv. The website, the MNS listserv, and the MNS email list have become lifelines for our organization. These tools make it easy for members to communicate with one another and for the Board and Committees to keep members and others who are interested in our activities up-to-date. They extend our reach beyond New England. They allow the public to find neuropsychologists for clinical services or for giving talks through the Speakers Bureau. These tools have also reduced costs, as many paper mailings have been replaced by electronic notices.

MNS continues to enhance our professional web profile and online communications. We will soon be moving into the world of social media and podcasting. Student Board member, Mirella Díaz-Santos, MA is our new Facebook coordinator. Thanks to MNS member Bob Ferguson, MNS lectures will be available worldwide via audio podcasts in the near future. Management of all of these electronic means of communication has added a new level of work, along with countless opportunities, for MNS. In recognition of that, our organizational structure now includes the Electronic Communications Committee (ECC).

Current members are: Sigmund Hough, Ph.D., ABPP-RP, ECC Chair; Anya Potter, Ph.D., ECC Chair (2013-2014); Claudia Rutherford, Ph.D., Listserv Coordinator; Mirella Díaz-Santos, Facebook Coordinator; Mary Coakley-Welch, Ph.D., CE representative; Kelly Karl, Psy.D., Treasurer-Elect; and Lang Zerner, Webmaster.

Importantly, we thank, as always, our Administrative Assistant Karen Jackson who assists in managing the listserv; manages online and on-site CE event registration; fields email communications to the MNS address; and posts official notices to our electronic lists.