



President's Report

Sigmund Hough, Ph.D., ABPP/rp

A Year of Accomplishment, Community and Direction

Hello MNS Community,

The reminder to write for the Spring Edition of the 2012 MNS Newsletter suddenly brings to awareness that my year of being President of MNS is coming to a close. On a personal note, the opportunity to serve MNS in this capacity has provided an experience to take forward for me and my family. Those that really know me, know that family is important and fully integrated into "who what where" in terms of my lifestyle and life choices. Our son, Brian, continues to gain an increasing appreciation for neuropsychology, psychology and neuroscience. At his age, he is beginning to understand the politics and economics of decisions and beliefs, and most importantly the need to have a voice and participate in the world as one of the "good guys" in the midst of noise, unfairness, and inequity. My wife, Michelle, has always been insightful and a solid support, highlighting the need to team up with and be surrounded by good people. This rings true with friends and co-workers, as well.

This year has been a quite a privilege for me as I reflect over the years since I was a student member of MNS. The prominent professionals at that time and those prominent professionals who have joined MNS since that time have brought MNS respect and have heightened recognition for neuropsychology to knowledgeable individuals in healthcare.

Those same individuals who have served in the capacity of Officer, Board Member, Committee Chair, Committee Member or Liaison have strengthened MNS to emerge as an

organization with increasing impact in a challenging environment.

Insightful, energetic, dedicated, knowledgeable, and outspoken through constructive feedback, with motivation to work together to get it right are some of the important qualities to surround oneself as president of any organization. This year, I had the good fortune to have that support and more...with humor, smiles, and if I may be so bold: professional bonding for this period of time and friendship for the future.

That being said, this year has been active in terms of MNS Board Membership, MNS Committee Membership and MNS Membership's accomplishments, targeted goals, and future direction. Not lucky, we were fortunate to have individuals with wisdom, skills, assertiveness, listening proficiency, and the ability to work together. Add to that the motivation, applied energy and time committed...and you have a great year.

Table of Contents Spring 2012

President's Report.....	1
2012 Science Symposium.....	3
Membership Update.....	3
Mentoring Program.....	4
Early Professional Perspective.....	5
MNS Mission Statement.....	6
Continuing Education.....	7
Speaker's Bureau.....	8
2012 Kaplan Award.....	9

The culmination of a great year is preparation for a great future. Steady, thoughtful and efficient planning has been a central theme throughout the year. Rather than knee-jerk responses to an item, then needing to back-peddle, we spent time to view different perspectives, debate, and come to consensus with additional review as necessary. For our on-going efforts, the constructive feedback from membership continues to be invaluable and welcomed.

In this newsletter, you will read about specifics. Overall, these specifics are praiseworthy. We have a core group of dedicated members - *Thank You* - with new membership - *Welcome*. MNS membership dues have not increased. We have expanded membership benefits as a part of our ongoing membership recognition and appreciation (for example, MNS Gift Shop, free parking during monthly lectures, discounts on select events, discounts at Hewlett-Packard, Hertz, and BioScience Writers, a company that specializes in revising, editing and proofreading scientific and medical research documents). The MNS Education Series has been well attended with positive feedback regarding the exciting and informative lectures. Financially viable and accountable, we continue our 501(c) 3 status. Our mission statement with clear objectives was re-established to provide focused guidance in our professional activities and accountability. The website has incorporated new technology towards the development of content and usefulness. Development can be seen this year in the modifications incorporated into the MNS Listserv and enhancement of the MNS Newsletter with *Going Green in 2012*. Political education and advocacy have been initiated. Collaborative effects were successfully confirmed when we kicked off the MPA/MNS-MNS/MPA Educational Series on healthcare reform in March! The Silent Auction in December found financial reward for the symposium and productive fun for members. The professional book giveaway during the MNS Education Series adds to the fun of shared learning. In the past year, the MNS Board and PAC members worked to actively educate the society and assist with numerous policy and research initiatives. The Mentorship initiative, membership growth efforts, connection with

the Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Professional Affairs Committee, Continuing Education Committee, Speakers Bureau Committee, Mentoring Program Committee, developing educational videos through the internet and website to increase access points for membership, and the exciting MNS Science Symposium coming in June 2012, are some of our successes. The list goes on, as does MNS.

Your participation through membership and donations (which may be tax deductible as an ordinary business expense) supports these activities financially. Your participation and partnership in MNS activities supports the largest neuropsychological organization in New England and strengthens our collegial networking for growth and advancement.

The future holds continuing promise in neuroscience research and most important, its utility for prevention, assessment and intervention to maximize human functioning and potential. The years ahead will provide challenges for the field of neuropsychology as a profession and as a science. Will we obtain the fulfillment of career satisfaction? Will the intrinsic meaning to be a neuropsychologist be actualized? Will fair quality access for individuals who require our services be available? The years ahead will provide critical points of opportunity to assist in the navigation of healthcare. Will MNS be ready? Not only ready... but MNS will play a key role in education and advocacy for standards of care and healthcare equality with your continued involvement.

Big Thank You with appreciation,
Sigmund

MNS SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM 2012

Mark your calendars! The 2012 MNS Science Symposium will be held this year on Tuesday June 5 at the Boston Marriott Long Wharf. We hope that you will make plans to join us for an evening of delicious food, stimulating conversation and learning, and reconnecting with neuropsychology colleagues...all at a beautiful facility overlooking the waterfront in downtown Boston. We are very excited to welcome this year's speaker, Dr. Mark Sherer, who will be speaking on the integration of neuropsychology and rehabilitation. Dr. Sherer is a board certified neuropsychologist with over 25 years of experience as a clinician, administrator and educator in brain injury rehabilitation. He has also served as principal investigator for numerous TBI-related grants and has published more than 100 articles and book chapters. We are thrilled that he will be sharing his wealth of knowledge and experience with us at this year's symposium.

As always, a poster session will precede Dr. Sherer's lecture. We hope that you will consider attending this year's symposium. Be sure to register soon to take advantage of early-registration discounts. CE credits will also be offered. We look forward to seeing everyone on June 5!

Membership Update

Randy Otto, Ph.D., Membership Director

Our membership continues to grow and we are excited to welcome several new members over the past several months. For additional information on membership or for a membership application, please see the MNS webpage.

~ We are requesting that members join the MNS listserv to receive regular updates about advocacy efforts and upcoming programs. You

can join the listserv through the "members only" portion of the webpage.

~ A reminder that your dues are critical to the maintenance of our organization. If you have outstanding dues, please send your payment today. Thank you!

~ The Board of MNS would like to welcome the following new members since November, 2011. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming MNS events.

Regular Members

Wendy L. McKernon, Ph.D.

Julie M. Brody Magid, Psy.D.

Scott C. Fish, Ph.D.

John J. Burke, Ph.D.

Kathleen I. Pennoyer, Ph.D.

Ravi H. Gatha, Ph.D.

Ryan S. Fielding, Psy.D.

Student Members

Michelle S. Kim, Ph.D.

Elizabeth M. Schwaiger, B.A.

Meredith C. Bacon, M.A.

Frantz Moise, M.S.

Angela M. Currie, Ph.D.

Katherine A. DellaPorta, Psy.D.

Sara M. Kark, B.S.

Call for Mentors

We need your experience, expertise, and talent to help students and junior colleagues to succeed in starting and building their careers!

Please register to become a Mentor and support the future generation of neuropsychologists.

MNS members at all career levels are invited to join the MNS Mentoring Program offering mentor matching, round table discussions, workshops, on-line resources collection, and more.

The benefits for Mentors include access to the MNS online mentoring resources library, invitation to Mentoring for Mentors workshops, and Peer Mentoring Program. All Mentors will receive the MNS certificate of appreciation for serving as a Mentor on the MNS Mentoring Program at the end of the academic year, and will be eligible for the Best Mentor award (voted by students).

Log in to learn more & register at:

www.massneuropsych.org/member-center/mentoring-program

or send your registration and current CV to Dr. Yelena Bogdanova or Dr. Anya Potter at mentor@massneuropsych.org

Mentoring Program Update

Yelena Bogdanova, PhD

Chair, MNS Mentoring Program

On behalf of the MNS Mentoring Program, we would like to thank all MNS members who joined the Mentoring Program this year for their contribution to the program's development and participation in the program's activities and events.

This Spring the Mentoring Program hosted a Professional Development event, the Internship Forum, for graduate students. The Forum's Guest Speakers, Drs. Maureen O'Connor and Lee Ashendorf, and the Panelists (Lori Azzara, PsyD; Lindsay Embree, MA; Tom Laudate, PhD; and Anya Potter, PhD) addressed important issues in preparation for internship, the APPIC process, and the caveats in applying for a neuropsychology internship. The Mentoring Program received a great deal of positive feedback from the student attendees who found the forum to be very timely and helpful. We would also like to welcome the new students who attended the forum and decided to join MNS!

The Mentoring Program's goals are to facilitate the members' involvement in the Society and to provide the students and trainees with opportunities for interaction with senior members through workshops, panel discussions and mentoring events. The Mentoring Program also offers a mentor-mentee match program for clinical and research mentoring. Many students requested mentoring opportunities in pediatric neuropsychology, forensic neuropsychology, clinical research, traumatic brain injury and cognitive rehabilitation research. Several MNS members already matched and provide on-line mentoring and/or host student volunteers at their research lab. We appreciate your sharing your

experience and expertise to help students to succeed in starting and building their careers.

We invite all MNS members to participate and continue their participation in the MNS Mentoring Program, so our Society can continue to grow and thrive!

Acknowledgments: Your MNS Mentoring Program Committee includes the following dedicated MNS members: Malissa Kraft, PsyD, ABPP; Anya Potter, PhD; and Mirella Diaz-Santos, MA.

**MNS Board of Directors
Spring 2012
Officers**

President: Sigmund Hough, PhD, ABPP
President Elect: Karen Spangenberg Postal, PhD, ABPP
Past President: Sandra Sheehan, PhD, ABPdN

Treasurer: Yelena Bogdanova, PhD
Secretary: Cynthia Levinson, PhD

Committees and Chairs

Continuing Education: Maureen O'Connor, PsyD, ABPP
Membership Director: Randall Otto, PhD
Professional Affairs: Michelle Imber, PhD, ABPP
Newsletter: Claudia Rutherford, PhD
Joseph Moldover, PsyD
Mentoring: Yelena Bogdanova, PhD
Speakers Bureau: Stephanie Monaghan-Blout, PsyD
Mary Coakley-Welch, PhD
Federation Rep: Linda Zoe Podbros, PhD
Science Symposium: Malissa Kraft, PhD, ABPP
Student Reps: Anya Potter, PhD
Maria Valas, MA

EARLY PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Wagging the dog: Neuropsychological assessment is not “testing”

Adam R. Cassidy, Ph.D.
Children’s Hospital Boston
Harvard Medical School

Though it is generally bad form to define an entity by what it is not, the title of this essay was chosen quite deliberately, as it counters an unfortunate and destructive manner of thinking that creeps up from time to time, among neuropsychologists and non-neuropsychologists alike, and may not even catch our attention: namely, that we as clinical neuropsychologists are “testers” and that what we do can somehow be reduced to “testing.” Assessment, whether psychological or neuropsychological, is “the primary means by which the products of research are utilized in the service of the individual...the overriding goal of which is to promote the optimal adaptation and well-being of the person being assessed” (Bernstein, 2000, p. 408). Administering standardized tests is certainly part of the job. It is a part for which we endure hours of training and practice, made all the more daunting by having to administer them as our instructors watch over our shoulders and scratch comments on the appropriateness of our queries (“*Tell me more about it*”). However, to think that neuropsychology can be equated to testing is akin to thinking that neurology can somehow be reduced to the EEG or economics to a spreadsheet. The problem here is in failing to distinguish the tools of the trade from the trade itself.

Standardized tests are a means of evoking behavior under relatively controlled conditions. They provide a replicable context within which to explore domains of cognition and elicit meaningful, process-oriented observations. Yet somehow, inexplicably, we allow ourselves at times to be driven by our instruments, rather than by the sound clinical judgment and science that created them in the first place. We make this mistake whenever we presume to know something about an individual’s functional capacity by the numerical score he or she

generates on a given task. As Edith Kaplan famously noted, an individual who accurately places 8 of 9 blocks in a pattern will earn a score of 0, just like the person who eats the blocks or throws them across the room. Going purely by their scores, these individuals are indistinguishable. But they are most assuredly not the same. When we allow our rich clinical observations to be robbed of their relevance by an over-reliance on the numbers, we do a great disservice to our patients, as well as the field and our training more broadly.

The security of neuropsychology as a discipline will likely be decided by its demonstrated capacity to exert meaningful, positive, and fiscally measurable change in the lives of those in need. This will require a concerted effort on our part to make clear that we as clinical psychologists with vast knowledge about the brain, behavior, development, and neuroscience are uniquely suited to help others navigate the morass of complex medical and neurological illness. Guided by a coherent model of neuropsychological assessment as a “complex clinical activity” (Vanderploeg, 1994, p. 38) comprising both evaluation *and* management (Bernstein, 2000), perhaps we may be able to move beyond the harmful label of “tester” and instead define ourselves by the “optimal adaptation and well-being” (p. 408) we strive to bolster in our patients and their families.

References

- Bernstein, J. H. (2000). Developmental Neuropsychological Assessment. In K. O. Yeates, M. D.
- Ris, & H. G. Taylor (Eds.), *Pediatric Neuropsychology: Theory and Practice*. New York: Guilford Press.
- Vanderploeg, R. D. (1994). Interview and testing: The data collection phase of neuropsychological evaluations. In R. D. Vanderploeg (Ed.), *Clinician's Guide to Neuropsychological Assessment*. New Jersey: Erlbaum.

Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society

Mission Statement

The Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society, established 1988, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting research, clinical service, scholarly work and education in neuropsychology that enhances the understanding of brain-behavior relationship and neuropsychological disorders.

Objectives

In order to fulfill its mission, the Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society has established eight objectives:

1. Professional Development: Provide information and support to the membership and the profession to enhance neuropsychological assessment, intervention, and consultation services.
2. Education & Training: Disseminate neuropsychological knowledge through meetings, lectures, professional contacts, publications, reports, the Internet, and other forms of media.
3. Research: Promote research to improve knowledge of brain-behavior relationships and to improve the efficacy of outcomes in neuropsychological evaluations and interventions.
4. Ethics: Encourage membership towards the profession's highest ethical standards.
5. Diversity: Promote understanding of cultural and individual diversity, ability and disability, strengths and weaknesses as it applies to the study and practice of neuropsychology.
6. Students: Promote the field of neuropsychology as a career choice among students, by activities such as

mentoring and supporting student participation in educational activities.

7. Public Education: Provide education to the public through avenues that promote understanding of brain-behavior relationships in areas such as healthy behaviors; prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of neuropsychological illness and injury; and diagnosis and treatment of neurodevelopmental disorders.
8. Advocacy: Educate and advocate on behalf of the profession, practitioners and consumers.

Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society

A Special Thank You to Our Supporters

Support of our 2012 MNS Annual Science Symposium & Poster Session: Pearson, PAR, Springer Science and Business Media, Impact, Pro-Ed, PAW: The PscWriter, Help Hope Live, Boston Bruins, Boston Red Sox, New England Patriots, Boston University Fitness & Recreation Center, F1 Boston in Braintree, MNS Members, MNS Committees, MNS Board of Directors and Friends of MNS.

Support of our 2011-2012 MNS Continuing Education Lecture Series' Professional Book Giveaway: Springer Science and Business Media.

Continuing Education Update

MNS Continuing Education Program
Committee

Maureen K. O'Connor, Psy.D., ABPP
Stephanie Monaghan-Blout, Psy.D.
Mary Coakley-Welch, Ph.D.

We have had a wonderful year of lectures in 2011-2012. We extend our thanks to Drs. Entwistle, Gruber, Kensinger, Jacobs, and McGrath for their outstanding contributions throughout the fall. We learned about marijuana effects related to age-of-onset of use; about training working memory through Cogmed; about the impact of emotions on memory formation in older adults; about the dopamine-estrogen connection's impact on working memory and subsequent implications for women's health; and about diagnosis and management of sports concussions in student-athletes.

This spring, following the Annual Open Board meeting in March, MNS hosted the first in a series of joint presentations from MPA and MNS on Health Care Reform. The topic for this first event was *Neuropsychological and Psychological Assessment and Health Care Reform: Are We at the Table?* If you missed it, the program is available for purchase at <http://www.massneuropsych.org/links/educational-videos>. (CE credit is not available for the videotape.) Thanks to Dr. Karen Postal for lending her iMovie skills, which gave MNS our first distance learning opportunity. The taped presentation has been purchased by neuropsychologists from other states, as this was the first offering of its kind in the country to focus on Assessment and Health Care Reform. This project sets a precedent for investigating the feasibility of offering videotaped CE lectures in the future. Stay tuned for more news as we explore this exciting possibility.

In this program, MNS President-Elect Dr. Karen Postal, MPA Executive Director Dr. Elena Eisman, and Reliant Medical Group's Chief of Behavioral Medicine Dr. Leslie Bourne updated us on the current status of health care reforms; on the questions that federal and state changes in delivery of health care services raise for assessment; and on how behavioral health services have been integrated into a medical home model here in MA. The focus of the presentations was on seeing the opportunities those changes in health care delivery open up for neuropsychologists and psychologists.

On April 3rd we had the good fortune of hearing Dr. Rebecca Saxe provide an introduction to social cognitive neuroscience: *How Brains Think about People*. Dr. Saxe engaged members in a fascinating discussion and discovery of how "human brains achieve cognitive feats that are unique to humans and are out of reach for most animals and computers." Her research focuses on how brains think about thoughts, especially thoughts of other people, and what neural regions and mechanisms are involved in that process. She gave a history of the False Belief Test and discussed what her research reveals about the neurology and function of Theory of Mind in typical development and in the presence of Autistic Spectrum conditions. Dr. Saxe is a renowned neuroscientist whose TED talk has been viewed over 800,000 times. You can view that here: http://www.ted.com/talks/rebecca_saxe_how_brains_make_moral_judgments.html

Dr. Kathleen Howland engaged May lecture attendees in making music (with no instruments!) while presenting her talk on Neurologic Music Therapy: Research Basis and Clinical Protocols for Cognitive Training. She described, and showed video of, opera writing and production as a therapeutic tool. She discussed research and her clinical experience with the rehabilitative and calming effects of music therapy for people with a range of diagnoses from stroke to developmental delays to Parkinson's Disease.

MNS Speakers Bureau

The Speakers Bureau continues to educate community groups and began to educate psychology and neuropsychology trainees during the fall and winter. In September, Dr. Joe Moldover's talk on Executive Function and Executive Function Disorders drew a record-setting crowd for the Parent Workshop Series sponsored by the Natick, MA social skills training organization, Academy Metrowest. Director Bruce Sabien, MA, LMHC writes in their fall newsletter: "Our workshop series got off to a roaring start this year," with Joe's presentation. Mr. Sabien continued, "EF is truly a 'hot topic' in the world of social skills these days and Dr. Moldover provided an excellent overview on a topic that is not always easy to describe."

More recently, Dr. Stephanie Monaghan-Blout spoke to trainees in the Neuropsychology Program at the Bedford VA on the topic of neuropsychological evaluations of children and related services such as school observations, consultation to team meetings, and participation in Bureau of Special Education Appeals proceedings. Trainees at Boston Neuropsychological Services, LLC learned about pediatric psychopharmacology from MNS member Clare O'Callaghan, PhD, RNCS. As a Neuropsychologist and Clinical Nurse Specialist, Dr. O'Callaghan's expertise bridges neuropsychology and pharmacology.

The Speakers Bureau offers talks on neuropsychology topics to community and professional groups. Visit <http://www.massneuropsych.org/links/speakers-bureau> to see talks that members have offered to date. To assist in outreach efforts (do you know of a group who might be interested in a neuropsychology talk? Let us know and we'll let them know what we offer!); or to assist in managing the Speakers Bureau; or to join the list of Speakers, please call Mary Coakley-Welch at 781-368-9020.

Member Participation

We are always interested in feedback and comments about our programming as we strive to meet your needs. Any suggestions for engaging speakers and formats are welcome and we strongly encourage members to contact us with proposals. Talks are open to non-members, too, so let your colleagues and students know about our programs!

The CE Committee has a number of opportunities for volunteers. Any member, associate or student member is eligible to help. To find out how to get involved please contact Maureen K. O'Connor at maureen.oconnor@va.gov.

Please remember to join us for refreshments prior to the talks from 7-7:30. This is our opportunity to catch up with one another and meet other professionals in the area!

Thank you for your support!

Awards Committee announces Deborah Fein, Ph.D. as 2012 Kaplan Award Recipient

The MNS Awards committee is pleased to announce that Dr. Deborah Fein, Distinguished Professor of Psychology at University of Connecticut, is the recipient of the 2012 Edith Kaplan Award.

Dr. Fein's main research interests have involved the neuropsychology of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Her recent work includes investigating the early detection of autism and fMRI studies of language in children whose autism has resolved.

Dr. Fein received her training in neuropsychology at BU and the Boston VA Medical Center, under the mentorship of Drs. Kaplan and Allan Mirsky. Dr. Fein has long been a supporter of, and resource for, MNS. She was discussant on the MNS sponsored tribute colloquium to Dr. Kaplan addressing contributions to theoretical models in neuropsychology, presented at INS in 2011.

Awards committee members Lee Ashendorf, Maxine Krengel, and Sandra Shaheen elected Dr. Fein from recommendations made for this Award by Dr. Kaplan. Dr. Fein has agreed to address members at our September meeting. Look for more information from the Continuing Education committee on this talk and related festivities for our first meeting of the 2012-2013 year.