Dear colleagues,

MNS is growing and evolving. The past few years have seen the development of a vibrant mentoring program and student collaboration with Boston University that is bringing in new perspectives and enthusiasm. The education committee has launched podcasts of MNS lectures, our web presence through our website and social media is allowing our organization to reach a wide network through the state and throughout the country, and our PAC is becoming ever more sophisticated in its advocacy on behalf of the profession.

I want to bring your attention to two more points of evolution for MNS--our new home, and our first diversity initiative.

First, our home. As many of you know, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, the longtime home of MNS, is moving to Charlestown. Spaulding has generously offered to allow MNS to continue to keep our headquarters with Spaulding--and move with them to the new location. Members of our site committee have visited the new facility, and tell us that the meeting space is spectacular. This is truly a setting that befits who we are as a profession.

While the setting is spectacular, there are some drawbacks. There is no direct T service to the Navy Yard. A shuttle runs from MGH to Spaulding, or there is bus service. Parking will increase from $5 to $7-$14 depending on what lot is accessed. Our site committee looked at many locations throughout the greater Boston area. All had strengths and weaknesses. Transportation and parking were top considerations! After much searching, an alternate potential home was identified: The Brighton Marine Health Center. This is located in Brighton, and has direct T access and free parking. But, for many who drive, it’s a long drive with tough traffic.

So the MNS board is leaving the decision to you, the MNS community. We have decided to hold our last CE event of the 2012-2013 year, on May 7th at the new Charleston Navy Yard Spaulding location, to give everyone a sense of the space. As
many previous events have been held at Brighton, we felt that MNS members already are familiar with that location. After the event, we will send out a survey monkey ballot, and allow everyone to vote for his or her preferred location. **MNS’s new home will be announced at the Science Symposium on June 4th.**

Next, MNS’s first diversity initiative. While many people accurately view diversity initiatives as mechanisms to address social injustice, the MNS board also sees the question of diversity as one of survival for our profession. As our national population becomes ever more culturally and linguistically diverse, our profession will remain relevant only if we address diversity issues in our training, assessment techniques, and research base. Think about this- in the not so distant future, the now common practice of referring out patients with a cultural background different from our own will be impractical. We will all be referring out too many patients. And to whom will we refer?

The MNS board is very proud to announce the first MNS diversity initiative. This represents a yearlong board of directors’ process with multiple drafts, and a diversity retreat this winter. We will be talking more about the diversity initiative at the Science Symposium, and are very pleased to have Dr. Monica Rivera Mindt as our keynote speaker. I have included the diversity initiative text below. We are looking forward to beginning a dialogue about the initiative within our MNS community in the next year about the initiative.

Happy Spring!

**MNS Diversity Initiative**

I. VISION

The term "diversity" encompasses differences of culture, background and experience among individuals and groups. Such differences include, but are not limited to, differences of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, and disabilities, as well as political and religious affiliation and socioeconomic status.

The Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society (MNS) recognizes that if neuropsychology is to remain relevant as a profession dedicated to understanding brain-behavior relationships in education/training, healthcare, and forensic arenas, greater emphasis must be placed on research, training, and ongoing professional development furthering our understanding the role of culture and diversity in neuropsychological assessment and cognitive function. For example, by 2020 individuals of diverse ethnic background will represent more than half the population of the United States.

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 will be impractical and result in an untenable backlog for culturally fluent neuropsychologists. Academic settings will need to prepare the next generation of neuropsychologists to be competent in this new population context. Understanding the international scope of neuropsychology within the world-wide diversity of brain-behavior science and application, we are left with the fact we cannot remain in isolated academic communities or professional organizations. Our intention is to be inclusive, improve access, reduce barriers, and decrease deficits of knowledge while increasing awareness and competency.

II. DIVERSITY INITIATIVE
Therefore, MNS has created a Diversity Initiative. A Diversity Committee has been 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 member. The vision/goals of the initiative are to:

1. Support all MNS members in becoming culturally competent practitioners by raising awareness of this issue and providing resources that will support growth in this area. Where resources are not available, MNS will support their production.

2. Create a dynamic and evolving web resource center for diversity on the MNS website, including links to resources and materials.

3. Ensure that every invited CE speaker is asked to address diversity. Options to do so: discuss applications of the research or clinical work presented to diverse populations; present a talk in which application to diverse populations is inherent in the topic and work presented; or comment on potential avenues for research or clinical work that would address application to diverse populations, if the speaker’s work and expertise do not extend to diverse populations.

4. Encourage focus on Diversity in our scientific activities (including the Science Symposium, by creating a diversity research award for the poster sessions).

5. Increase the number of neuropsychologists of diverse cultural, ethnic, or other backgrounds in our membership.

6. Increase the number of neuropsychologists of diverse cultural, ethnic, or other backgrounds in our leadership pipeline, including the BOD.

7. Increase the number of students of diverse background in our membership and leadership roles within MNS.

8. Increase training opportunities for students interested in the clinical practice and/or research of cultural neuropsychology through conjoint efforts of the Diversity Committee and Trainee/Mentorship Program.

9. Develop materials and make existing resources more available, visible and accessible to assist neuropsychologists in academic settings to prepare the next generation of students.

**2013 Science Symposium**

Mark your calendars! The 2013 MNS Science Symposium will be held this year on Tuesday June 4 at the Boston Marriott Long Wharf. We had a great response to this venue and the event last year and we’re hoping to make the 2013 MNS Science Symposium an even bigger hit. 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.

This year we are thrilled to welcome Dr. Monica Rivera-Mindt as our keynote speaker. Dr. Rivera-Mindt is a board-certified neuropsychologist, researcher, and a professor in the Department of Psychology at Fordham University in New York. Her research is focused on the neurocognitive and functional consequences of HIV/AIDS, health disparities among U.S. Latinos, and the sociocultural aspects of neurocognitive test performance. In keeping with our diversity initiative, we are very much looking forward to Dr. Rivera-Mindt sharing her wealth of knowledge and experience with us at this year’s symposium.
As always, a poster session will precede Dr. Rivera-Mindt’s lecture. Please consider submitting an abstract for this year’s poster session—abstracts are due May 10. Abstracts can be emailed to Dr. Lee Ashendorf at Lee.Ashendorf@va.gov. We hope that you will consider attending this year’s symposium. Registration for this event will open on the MNS website in early April. Be sure to register early to take advantage of early-registration discounts. CE credits will also be offered. We look forward to seeing everyone on June 4!

**New MNS Legal Counsel**

The MNS Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Attorney Kenneth Gogel of the firm Gogel & Gogel has become our organizational counsel. He will be advising the board on routine society matters, and is also available for consultation with membership regarding practice issues.

Attorney Ken Gogel has represented neuropsychologists and other healthcare providers in Massachusetts since 1989. Among its various business and commercial law cases, Gogel & Gogel represents clinical providers across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in disputes with insurance companies over medical reimbursement claims and audit defense. Ken is a nationally recognized authority on claims reimbursement practices and claims processing systems. He was appointed national class counsel in a case that the firm litigated in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The settlement of that case ended an insurance industry practice of reducing claims for physician reimbursement based on the use of a flawed database. Gogel & Gogel is currently handling national class action litigation pending in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts that challenges an insurance company's denial of reimbursement for multiple neuropsychology testing codes billed on the same date of service.

Kenneth J. Gogel is licensed to practice law in Massachusetts and also represents medical providers in other states with local counsel. Contact Ken Gogel via the Gogel & Gogel website at [http://gogel-gogel.com](http://gogel-gogel.com).

**Update from the Professional Affairs Committee**

Jeffrey Sheer, Ph.D., ABPP
PAC Flash Editor
Michelle L. Imber, Ph.D., ABPP
PAC Co-Chair
Roger 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 the patients and clients we serve, our members, and our profession. While many activities were reported in detail in the most recent PAC Flash, now available on the MNS website, we are happy to provide updates about several recent activities, including the following:

Pearson Assessment projects:

1. A joint MNS-MPA group is conducting ongoing data analysis and research with data provided by Pearson on the time required to administer neuropsychological measures to clinical populations.
2. Members of the PAC and members of the MPA Assessment Committee met with representatives from Pearson to discuss their computer-based Q-Interactive Assessment System. At this meeting, preliminary feedback was offered about their product based on concerns from the membership. In addition, further effort was made to educate them regarding the market forces that currently challenge neuropsychological practice.

Continued meetings have occurred between Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts and the MPA/MNS Joint Advocacy Group, consisting of members of the MNS PAC and members of the MPA Assessment Committee, regarding management of benefits for neuropsychological services for their members.

Analysis and synthesis of a recent survey of members regarding their experiences with insurance authorizations from BCBS is underway. Thanks to all of you who participated! As indicated in a recent email from Dr. Cohen, aspects of the data acquired from the survey will be organized and presented to members via the MNS e-mail list.

If you are interested in joining the PAC, or have an idea about a project for the PAC, please feel free to contact Dr. Imber and Dr. Cohen. Member participation has driven many of our most productive ideas!

Membership Update
Malissa Kraft, Psy.D., ABPP-CN
MNS Membership Committee Chair

I am pleased to report that our membership continues to grow. In fact, 2012 was our best year yet. We have been excited to welcome several new members over the past months and hope that this trend continues throughout 2013. 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 2012. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming MNS events.

Regular Members
Gail Mengel
Wanda Riemen
Elizabeth Smith
Jenifer Walkowiak
Haley Lamonica
Jeffrey Drayer
Seth Doolin
Heather Adams

Student Members
Gretchen Reynolds
Robert Salazar
Erika Updegrove
Laurie Brenner
Emily Pearce
Margarte Cadden
Emily Williamson

Early Career/Post-Doc Members
Natasha Swan
Jaclyn Ford
Rebecca Grant
Mentoring Program Update  
Yelena Bogdanova, PhD

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

[www.massneuropsych.org/mentors]

Last fall, the MNS Mentoring Program started Student Lecture Series in collaboration with Boston University’s Neuropsychology Graduate Students organization. The Student Lecture Series became a success, thanks to the contribution of MNS members (Drs. Paul Spiers, Yelena Bogdanova, and Karen Postal). This Spring, we expanded MNS’ MP collaborations and offered another student event entitled “Futures in Neuropsychology: Exploring the Research and Clinical Realms”, presented in collaboration with the Northeastern Undergraduate Researchers of Neuroscience at Northeastern University. The panel moderated by MNS student member Sarah Kark included MNS members Dr. Maureen O’Connor, Dr. Maxine Krengel, Dr. Anya Potter, Mirella Diaz-Santos, and Kayle Sawyer. The Mentoring Program received immensely positive feedback from student attendees, who found the panel “eye-opening” and “timely”. Please visit our website for the upcoming MNS Student Lecture Series events schedule.

The Mentoring Program’s goals are to encourage and facilitate the members’ 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 a mentor-mentee match program for clinical and research mentoring. Several MNS members already provide on-line mentoring and/or host student volunteers at their research sites. We appreciate your time and sharing your of experience and expertise!

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

To join the MNS Mentoring Program click here:
www.massneuropsych.org/links/mentoring-program-application

Speakers Bureau Update

The Speakers Bureau subcommittee has been working with our webmasters to update and polish the MNS Speakers Bureau webpage. You can check it out here:

http://www.massneuropsych.org/links/speakers-bureau

Recent exciting developments for the Speakers Bureau include Dr. Bertha-Elena Rojas’ now offering talks in Spanish. Our stepped-up outreach this winter has yielded three scheduled presentations for Special Education Parent Advisory Councils (SEPAC). In March, Dr. Tim Martin spoke to about 25 people for the Acton-Boxborough SEPAC on The Impact of Anxiety and Depression on Learning and Attention.

We now have fourteen MNS members available to provide sixty-one different talks to community and professional groups. The topics available fall under five broad categories: Learning and Learning Disabilities across the Lifespan; Aging and the Brain; Acquired Brain Disorders; Neuropsychological Evaluations: Why, What, When, Where, How?; and Special
Topics in Neuropsychology. If you would like to offer a talk through the MNS Speakers Bureau or if you know of a group interested in hosting a talk, please call Mary Coakley-Welch at 781-368-9020. Dr. Stephanie Monaghan-Blout and Dr. Stephanie Craig work with Dr. Coakley-Welch in managing the Speakers Bureau.

MNS Board of Directors
Spring 2013
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Education Committee Update
Stephanie Monaghan-Blout, Psy.D.

The winter of 2013 has been both snowy and productive, marked by the change in name from the Continuing Education Committee to the Education Committee. The change in name reflects the expansion of our area of interest beyond provision of continuing education opportunities to members to now including educational opportunities for the larger community of professionals as well as consumers of neuropsychology services. The expansion of the Education mission is being put into action through the use of new communication technology, such as videotaping and podcasts to provide non-credit educational programming (check the website for podcasts of our last two seminars- downloading from iTunes to com); engaging in collaborative efforts with other board groups (e.g. Science Symposium) and joint ventures with other organizations such as the Massachusetts Psychological Association; and making our collective expertise available to the community through the Speaker's Bureau. We are also beginning to explore how MNS might best use its knowledge and expertise to develop a community service component. Suggestions have ranged from direct pro bono services to developing curriculum for middle school students.

In the midst of all this activity, the Education Committee has also presented two continuing seminars. In March we presented the first of a series entitled "Honing Our Craft; Practical Skills for a 21st Century Practice" with the title "In-House Forum on Report Writing". Our own Dr. Karen Postal, Dr. Maggie Lanca and Dr. Claudia Rutherford presented the findings of the Stakeholder's Project, a national survey of neuropsychologists and physicians which provided information about how our reports are being viewed and used. Dr. Maggi Budd then presented a program evaluation tool adapted for individual use to be used for self-assessment and practice assessment. In April, Dr. Jennifer Vasterling and Dr. Susan McGlynn of the VA Boston Healthcare System presented on the subject of "Post-Deployment Issues in Returning Veterans with TBI and PTSD; Integrating Clinical and Scientific Perspectives." The Continuing Education offerings for the 2012-13 year will end with a talk on May 7 by Dr.
Catherine Schuman of Cambridge Health Alliance entitled “Integrating Sleep Management into Clinical Practice for Adults, Adolescents, and Children.”

Another major task undertaken this winter by the Education Committee was the completion of the five year re-application to be a provider of continuing education credits under the auspices of the American Psychological Association. This lengthy (200 pages) product documents the process through which MNS provides educational programming to members, and enumerates the programs offered, the qualifications of the presenters, and the evaluations of the attendees.

Electronic Communications Committee Report
http://www.massneuropsych.org

Sigmund Hough, Ph.D., ABPP-RP, ECC Chair and Anya Potter, Ph.D., ECC Chair (2013-2014)

A hard working committee with much accomplished, some of which are listed below. Thank you for a productive year!

Accomplishments:
1. With the increase in complex changes on the website, we established a new form to increase the efficiency to track and monitor to ensure completion and correctness.
2. Website: Established, Easy to find, Dynamic and Informative
3. Speakers Bureau page was re-organized and enhanced to make more user-friendly.
4. Revision on Website: Definition of Neuropsychology revised to reflect age-span scope of neuropsychology: pediatric through adult/geriatric and both developmental and acquired conditions (The previous wording focused on adult/acquired conditions.)
5. Added a PUBLIC RESOURCES BUTTON to home page of website.
6. EDUCATION/EVENTS PAGES: 1) Re-organized information with additional graphics. 2) Flyers announcing continuing education events, speakers, and learning objectives for the past year are now available on the events page. 3) When speakers agree, slides are available on the website for that lecture’s attendees to access.
7. PayPal more integrated into website for collection of dues, donations and continuing education event fees.
8. The launch of the MNS Facebook Fan Page and its link to the MNS website:
9. Future Potential Directions:
   • On-going Dynamic Process ...
     Enhance and Improve the website's function and capability, Increase membership value, Provide leadership in electronic communication to have technological presence related to MNS Mission and Objectives.
   • Establish a Functional Membership Directory for communication and networking.
   • Explore the feasibility to develop and utilize Podcast technology.
   • Continue efforts to increase Community Access and public service information.
   • An MNS app? (We can dream, can’t we?) Stay Tune!

Committee Members: 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, M.A., Facebook Coordinator; Mary Coakley-Welch, Ph.D.; Kelly C. Karl, Psy.D.; Charles Patten and Lang Zerner as our Webmaster, Board Members and Membership.