**President’s Report**

*Sigmund Hough, Ph.D., ABPP/rp*

**A Life Experience Called Serving**

Hello MNS Community,

As MNS President 2011-2012, I wish to welcome you to a continuing program of professional activities, collegial networking and support, and a community of shared interest in the world of neuropsychology. To say these times are challenging, exciting, cutting-edge, troubling, and critical would be to repeat what has been said many times before. Suffice it to say, those words and even more describe these times. The difference is that we are a part of the changing scenery. In fact, we are co-authors, adding to the mix, but not given the conclusion in advance. Thus, here is the excitement and opportunity. By embracing rather than worrying, we allow ourselves the ability to focus on possibility. By listening rather than always having the answer, we allow ourselves the ability to learn and incorporate alternative choices. By participating rather than playing the observing critic, we allow ourselves the opportunity to be a real part of the solution and to make a positive difference. I thank you for choosing to participate as members of the Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society. Appreciation is given to members who have extended the “welcome to join our membership” to colleagues, trainees and friends.

The privilege of serving is a COGNITIVELY STRONG and EMOTIONALLY EMPOWERING EXPERIENCE. As a student trying to become a student member of MNS, as student member, as member, as MNS Board Member, as Treasurer, and now as President, the years highlight active learning, participation, and serving. Being a member of a premier organization such as MNS—being associated with top leaders in neuropsychology, strong mentors, supervisors, and professionally accessible colleagues—has certainly made the difference for me and for many others as well.

MNS leadership has been strong over the years, which speaks to the respect and stability of the organization. When a captain takes over a ship, one must follow basic rules. If it is not broken, don’t try to fix it (no need to replace the sails—they are relatively new). Respect what has been working well, understand it so you can support it (make sure the engine is well maintained and refueled). Work and enjoy as a team (you know, that “balance in life” thing). The ship is ready!

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PRESIDENT’S REPORT—continued from page 1

I am fortunate to have a strong MNS Board, dedicated officers, and the experiences of the Past President and President-Elect. Take a minute and read their impressive biographies on the website. Their diversity of strengths combined with the dedication to MNS bring a solid professional foundation for a successful year. By the way, they are a fun group as well. Furthermore, there is the expert consultation available from earlier Presidents and ideas/inquiries/problem-solving from an active membership. The ship has the crew!

But to leave port, we need to have direction and a course. The ship has a mission!

“Full speed ahead!”

During this year, we shall have a focus on maturity as a successful organization (policies, procedures, website and related technological enhancement, membership benefits and membership value, mentoring and early career support in neuropsychology, membership recruitment and retention, fundraising and sponsorship, grant development, continuing the excellent CE program already in place, embracing diversity themes in neuropsychology, and the theme of rehabilitation neuropsychology. Of course, there are other noteworthy activities that you will hear about throughout the year (for example, details about the MNS Annual Science Symposium in June 2012, following a highly successful conference this past year).

So welcome aboard! Meet new friends; spend time with old friends; share knowledge and accomplishments, learn and receive continuing education credits, and join in the largest New England organization dedicated to the field of neuropsychology. Most importantly, join me in creating a shared experience this year.

My virtual office door is always open. I will always take what you have to say seriously and appreciate that you make the effort. I will do my best in representing MNS. Thank you.

Sigmund

PAC Mini-Flash

Michelle L. Imber, Ph.D., ABPP, Professional Affairs Committee Chair

Autumnal greetings from your MNS PAC! We have been meeting over the summer to continue following several ongoing matters. We will update you in an upcoming PAC Flash about the fruits of our labors. To summarize just a few of our recent activities, we have been continuing to collaborate with local, national, and regional organizations about patient protection issues and advocacy for our profession. Our Joint (MNS/MPA) Advocacy Committee was fortunate enough to collaborate with the APA Practice Directorate on some of our local concerns, and the APA-PD featured a story about our collective efforts in their summer newsletter (see “APA Practice teams with Massachusetts psychology organizations to advocate for neuropsychological services,” Practice Update, May 26, 2011). In other news, we are also working to locate data on accurate testing times for clinical populations so that we can use this information to educate insurers and others about the range of times required to assess patients with motor slowing, attention problems, and other issues that can affect the testing process. We have many other projects underway…please stay tuned for updates in the near future!

If you are interested in getting more involved with the PAC, please contact our chair at michelle.imber@gmail.com. We also maintain a list of people who may not always be able to make meetings, but who are still willing to pitch in on projects from afar. Please volunteer if you are interested! We are always glad to hear from members about the issues you are facing; we do bring your concerns to our meetings with insurers and other organizations, so please keep in touch.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Imber, Ph.D., ABPP
Continuing Education Update

MNS Continuing Education Program Committee
Maureen K. O’Connor, Psy.D., ABCN
Stephanie Monaghan-Blout, Psy.D.
Mary Coakley-Welch, Ph.D.

We are very excited to announce the Fall 2011 lecture series, which kicked off on September 13th with a double-feature lecture and social hour. Dr. Peter Entwistle started the night by presenting on Cogmed, an innovative computer based working memory program offered by Pearson. This informative lecture was followed by a social hour featuring a light supper and the opportunity to catch up with colleagues after a [hopefully!] relaxing summer. Dr. Staci Gruber topped off the evening with her talk, “Does Age Matter? Age of Onset of Marijuana Use: Impact on Brain Structure and Function.”

Other exciting topics for this year include:

October 4, 2011:
Elizabeth Kensinger, Ph.D.

November 1, 2011:
Emily Jacobs, Ph.D.

December 6, 2011:
Neal McGrath, Ph.D.
Sports Concussion Management of the Student-Athlete Using ImPACT.

April 3, 2012
Rebecca Saxe, PhD

May 1, 2012:

Our recent lectures have attracted record attendance and our new pre-registration system ensures that you get a seat! Given the high number of attendees at our recent series we encourage members to register on-line using our NEW website!

Science Symposium Recap

The 2011 Science Symposium brought friends and colleagues together for a truly wonderful night. A sampling of descriptions from those who attended includes: “Magical….the perfect blend of congeniality, scholarship and atmosphere;” “A great evening;” “Superb experience on all levels, scientifically and gastronomically.” The evening was such a great success thanks to all who attended, participated, volunteered, and sponsored the Symposium. Anthony’s Pier 4 provided a classic Boston Harbor setting, complete with sun-streaked sky and sailboats on view throughout the lovely June evening. Congratulations to Susan Ruiz, who won the Nelson Butters Award for her Poster, “Effects of gender and drinking history on cortically-associated regional white matter volumes in chronic alcoholism.” Thank you to all Poster Presenters, who provided such fine samples of the high quality research underway in the Boston area. Following the Poster Session and the enjoyment of hearty and varied hors d’oeuvres and lively conversation during the Reception, Dr. John Ratey spoke on the role of physical activity, exercise, and play in maintaining optimal neurobiological, physical, cognitive, and emotional health. More information about his work and his Foundation’s efforts in bringing fitness programs to schools, business, and organizations across the country and throughout the world can be found at: http://www.sparkinglife.org/ . Special thanks to Pearson for their generous sponsorship and to ImPACT and PAR for their contributions. We were fortunate to have opportunities to talk with senior representatives from Pearson, David Shafer and Jim Holdnack, who joined us for this year. Peter Entwistle, our loyal friend and colleague who is Pearson’s northeast region Cogmed Consultant also joined us as he continues to keep us up-to-date on Pearson products, especially the working memory training program, Cogmed.

MNS Speakers Bureau

Dr. Alex Taylor of the Brain Injury Center at Children’s Hospital, launched the MNS Speaker’s Bureau in April when he presented a talk, “Concussions in Adult Recreational Sports” at the 9th Annual April Showers Senior Women’s Ice Hockey Tournament in Concord Massachusetts. Speaking to a group of 15-20 participants, coaches and family members, Dr. Taylor described the mechanics of a concussion and addressed a number of common but dangerous misperceptions about how concussions are diagnosed. He concluded by discussing important components in the treatment and prognosis of adult women recreational athletes.

Later in the spring, the Speakers Bureau received a request for a neuropsychologist to speak to a Parkinson’s Disease
support group in Marblehead, MA. Dr. Malissa Kraft of the Center for Cognitive Wellness in Burlington describes her experience of addressing that group on June 13: “I met with an incredible group of folks known as the Circles of Hope that host a Parkinson's Support Group. The group meets twice a month in the home of one of the group’s members. Nearly 30 members gathered to hear about cognitive changes associated with aging, cognitive and psychiatric changes that can be associated with PD, and how lifestyle factors can affect cognitive functioning. The group was lively and engaged and had many questions to ask, as well as thoughts to discuss amongst the group. They were very gracious and appreciative of this outreach effort.”

The Speakers Bureau offers talks on neuropsychology topics to community and professional groups. This fall, Dr. Joe Moldover speaks on Executive Functions, as part of a parent workshop series sponsored by the Natick, MA social skills training organization, Academy Metrowest. Additionally, Dr. Stephanie Monaghan-Blout participates in the Bedford VA seminar series for neuropsychological trainees with a presentation on Pediatric Neuropsychology. Our outreach efforts are letting organizations know what the MNS Speakers Bureau has to offer.

Visit http://www.massneuropsych.org/links/speakers-bureau to see talks that members are offering 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 your opportunity to catch up with your peers and meet other professionals in the area!

Thank you for your support! We look forward to sharing the Fall series with you!

**Mentoring Program Report**

It has been a long-standing tradition at MNS to support the student members of the society by providing educational and research venues, such as lectures and Science Symposium. In November 2010, MNS established the Mentoring Program, which expands the MNS benefits for both student and regular members. The MNS Mentoring Program goals are to facilitate the members’ involvement in the society and to provide the students and trainees with opportunities for interaction with senior members, such as workshops, panel discussions and mentoring events.

The Mentoring Program offers the opportunity for the student members to connect with senior MNS members, to network and to explore the various research and clinical venues: Career Development, Research, and Clinical Mentoring.

The Mentoring Program features include Professional Development workshops, mentor-mentee meetings in a small group format, as well as Mentoring for Mentors educational programming in lecture and workshop format. The MNS website features online educational materials (papers, chapters, web publications) for mentors and mentees. Additionally, MNS plans to host a yearly Mentoring Program event, which will provide another opportunity for the society members to meet and network, to facilitate communication within MNS community.

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

Please consider joining the Mentoring Program, so we can provide additional support for our student members, as well as junior colleagues, and 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; Maxine Krengel, PhD; Anya Potter, MA; Mirella Diaz-Santos, MA.

Yelena Bogdanova, PhD  
Chair, MNS Mentoring Program
Membership Update

Randy Otto

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.

~ Get Connected 2011 MNS Membership Drive: We will continue with our “Get Connected” drive throughout the membership year. Invite a lapsed MNS member to reconnect OR invite a new regular member to receive certificates for CEs or reduced membership dues. Please see the membership page of the website for additional information and rules.

~ 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 May 2011.

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming MNS events.

Regular Members
Joseph Begany, Ph.D.
Maggi Budd, Ph.D.
Barbara Cooper, Ph.D.
Albert Deckel, Ph.D.
Robert Ferguson, Ph.D.

Student Members
Rachel Bieu, M.A.
Maggie Chen, M.A.
Justin Centi, M.A.
Michelle Dube, B.A.
Shelly Greene, M.A.
Lorin Weidman, B.A.

Call for Mentors

Would you like to contribute your experience, expertise and your talent and to help students or junior colleagues to succeed in starting and building their career?

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.

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

Or send your registration and current CV to Dr. Yelena Bogdanova at bogdanov@bu.edu or Anya Potter at anya.potter@gmail.com

Tough Times for Neuropsychology

Standing Together
by Sandra Shaheen, PhD, ABPdN
Past MNS President

Reduced reimbursements for services, fewer referrals, increasing costs for testing materials, changing priorities for grants funding, preauthorization paperwork which can keep you busy without any assurance of payment—are these getting to you, too? MNS’ Board of Directors and Professional Affairs Committee have been working to anticipate ways to help with these and other matters. Here are a few things in process—some new, most ongoing:

• Talks with publishers. One or two have graciously included MNS in pre-publication work groups. As a result, we were successful in having age extensions and different ceiling criteria included in the most recent WAIS revision, and we had detailed feedback opportunities for two pediatric tests last February. We are working with two publishers on including testing time for test administration (as insurance companies sometimes use these to determine the amount of time to allot for testing). At issue is that the published time is based on testing of the normative sample, not clinically impaired cases. These discussions are ongoing. We are in conversation about the costs of test protocols. Publishers are hoping that payment for individual administration when some tests go online will help reduce costs for smaller practices.

Clinician’s Corner

We would like to include updates about new, innovative clinical practices; creative responses to challenges in practice; and exciting lines of research (including graduate projects) in future issues. If you have something you would like to contribute, please contact Joe Moldover at jmoldover@drmoldover.com.
• Lecture series. You will see that we have included workshops and more applied topics which may get clinicians thinking about adjuncts to their testing practices: mindfulness meditation, Cogmed, and sports concussion prescreening and consultation are adjunct areas which some neuropsychologists are adding to their practices. Look for our Science Symposium topic on neurorehabilitation; more speech pathologists are working in this area in Boston than neuropsychologists. Make suggestions for avenues you have considered!

• Referrals, education and outreach. MNS has recently negotiated an agreement with HELP-PRO, a locally based, online service which can help with referrals for therapists in different geographical areas, with various specialties, treatment approaches, insurances, and languages. Very few neuropsychologists are currently listed on this network. We have arranged for members to obtain a basic listing for their practice FOR FREE to see if this is a good resource for you. In addition, Stephanie Monaghan Blout and Sandie Shaheen are creating a section on the website explaining “when to refer for neuropsychology.” MNS members are invited to contribute to a blog on the site after joining, to explain further applications of neuropsychology to therapists and patients. Don’t forget about referrals to the MNS Speakers Bureau; if you know a school, agency, nursing facility, or medical practice who wants information on a topic, we may have a speaker to match up.

• Insurance matters. MNS continues to explore options with various insurers to streamline the preauthorization process, increase comprehension of code changes, understand how these changes are effected in other states, and what actions NAN and Division 40 are taking. Follow PAC Flash and be assured that details of our activities here are reported at the March open meetings…Bring questions!

• Morale. We are doing our best to have a few more “free lunches” or sandwiches and desserts at special events, and we are planning a fun silent auction at the December meeting to help further underwrite the Science Symposium costs. The auction also gives everyone a chance at the great new NP books donated by academic publishers, not to mention the sports memorabilia and other offerings, just in time for holiday shopping.…

• Students and mentoring. You probably already know that we think that helping others is rewarding. (Maybe this is why many of us went into this field.) Two BOD members and student members are really revving up activities here.

• Scientific outreach. The Federation of Associations in Brain & Behavioral Sciences is a national organization of which NAN and MNS are the only two clinical members. We hope to do more education and collaboration about neuropsychology as our relationship builds, in addition to sharing information about potential joint science announcements and grants.

• Legislative outreach. Last year, MNS testified on the sports concussion legislation and was able to keep neuropsychologists in the regulations for return-to-play decisions after concussion. This year, we have reviewed and are supporting State Representative Ruth Balser’s bill, which has explicit advantages for behavioral health caregivers and clients.

MNS has significantly expanded its mission in the last few years to network more broadly, and represent a wider range of our members’ interests. We know this is a difficult time. We believe we can make more of a difference together than alone.
MNS’s First Annual Silent Auction
To help sponsor MNS Annual Science Symposium 2012

**December 6, 2011**

7:00pm to 7:25pm
Just before the MNS Lecture
More information to follow

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**Hot Off The Presses!**

- Professional Book “Giveaway” Program Sponsor…
  Special Thank You to Springer Science + Business Media for donating the professional books 2011-2012 MNS Lecture Series.

- Check out the new TAB on our website www.massneuropsychology.org Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society Gift Ideas. We have teamed up with VistaPrint to offer our printed products. We hope you like them!

- Don’t be shy... Send in your accomplishments. We like to post on our website the achievements of our very active and successful membership.

- Planning underway for another spectacular MNS Annual Science Symposium in June 2012.

- Stay tuned for more membership value throughout the 2011-2012 year.

Thanks for being a part of the MNS Community,

Sigmund
Sigmund Hough, Ph.D., ABPP-RP, MNS President
Membership Benefits

• Membership vouchers for two free CE lectures per year, discount at all other monthly CE lectures, and select reciprocity discounts with other organizations’ events
• Professional Affairs Advocacy
• MNS List serve
  • Up to date practice advisory notices
  • Stay in touch with current issues
  • Connect with colleagues
  • Get referrals
• MNS Website
  • Information on MNS happenings and other local events
  • Website resources
  • Online Membership Directory
  • Simple dues payments
  • One click access to Board Members
  • Members-only section
• Receive information on national grants and other research funding opportunities through newsletters available exclusive through our association with Federation of Association in Behavioral and Brain Sciences.
• Free parking at Monthly Lectures- just show your membership card to waive parking fees
• MNS newsletter-two issues sent yearly
• We continue to work on providing discounts, such as APA membership dues and HP products