The MNS year seems to pass in a heartbeat. I am happy to report that the Society is strong on all levels: membership, finances, committee work, and education events. In light of the growth spurt MNS has experienced in recent years in terms of numbers of committees and activities, I am pleased to report that we, on the Board of Directors, achieved my primary goal for the year of supporting and strengthening our long-standing and newer committees.

In the articles in this Newsletter, you will read about the accomplishments and ongoing work of those who volunteer to work for MNS by serving on the Board of Directors, on committees, and on specific projects. Thank you to each member involved in these ways. MNS committees are vibrant and hard-working. Committee members strive to keep us all informed about, and involved in shaping, the changing -- and more recently uncertain -- healthcare and research landscape.

MNS’s new meeting site, Spaulding Hospital Cambridge (Source: spauldingrehab.org)
who contributed ideas, time, and energy to our search for a new meeting site.

We are grateful for the warm welcome and administrative support SHC has already provided. We thank William James College for our enjoyable and successful year there. We were sorry to learn that their own program expansion created uncertainty about their ability to accommodate MNS for the 2017-2018 year.

Additional notable special efforts by the Board of Directors this year included:

- Established a relationship with a financial planner with expertise in working with nonprofit organizations to assist with strategies for managing the Society’s financial assets -- general funds and for the Edith Kaplan Fund. Special thanks to our financial consultant, Jonathan Bloom, CFP and his firm, AAFCPAs Wealth Management for working with MNS pro bono.

- Explored other ways to increase MNS visibility while raising funds. Stay tuned as this is a work in progress!

- Articulated a policy to govern public comments and statements issued by MNS through the President and members of the Executive Committee. (See the policy on page 17.)

- Issued input (through coordination with committees) in response to state/ federal requests regarding potential changes in Medicaid/Mass Health and addressing the needs of pediatric Medicaid recipients within ACO models.

- Updated the agreement between MNS and HelpPRO with an upgrade in benefits for MNS members to include: a free listing for the duration of MNS membership and premium listing including picture or video upload. MNS members can list our practices in this high-traffic online tool that lets members of the public find behavioral health clinicians who meet their needs in terms of geography, services, diagnoses and diagnostic questions, insurance, language and cultural expertise, and other parameters.

- Accepted MIT Press offer: MNS membership benefit of 30% discount on neuroscience titles.

- Worked closely with the Legacy Committee on long-term planning and presentation of the 2016 and 2017 Edith Kaplan Award Lectures. These two events drew record-breaking attendance for this CE year.

- Accepted an invitation from Pearson to meet with their new Senior VP for all Assessment Divisions, Lou Ruggerio, and our Regional Representative Dr. Michael Grau to discuss MNS questions, needs, and concerns about assessment tools. The MNS President and representatives from MNS committees—Professional Affairs, Diversity, and the Healthcare Reform – presented numerous concerns raised by MNS members regarding digital tools, unnecessary test revisions, clinical population norms, assessment measures needed for integrating our services with primary care, and the need for better integration in scoring programs to obtain

Past President Stephanie Monaghan-Blout, Psy.D. and President Mary Coakley-Welch Ph.D. at the 2017 MNS Science Symposium (Photo Credit M. Imber)
reliable score-change data or test-retest data so as to track clients’ performance changes over serial assessments. Please see the list serv post for details. The meeting was a success and MNS concerns were clearly heard and understood.

- Nominated and awarded MNS members for research and service accomplishments. Read about these individuals below.
- Planned and hosted the 2017 Science Symposium at the Museum of Science, Boston.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as President. I look forward to working as a committee member on projects related to public education and the neuropsychology of health. Those initiatives took a back burner as the year flew and we attended to and accomplished everything listed above -- and everything that you will read about below. I encourage all MNS members to think about getting involved in some way with MNS activities. I have been continually surprised by how rewarding I find active MNS involvement to be. And – MNS needs you – more people means more accomplished! Thank you, and with best wishes to the incoming Board of Directors for the 2017-2018 year.

**Education Committee**
Co-chairs: Patricia Lee, Ph.D. & Erica Appleman, M.A.

The Education Committee offered five evening CE lectures from September 2016 through April 2017, all of which took place at William James College. MNS also offered other educational events such as the roundtable panel discussion titled: “So What’s It Really Like to Work as a Neuropsychologist?” following the Open Board Meeting, as well as our annual Science Symposium, held this year at the wonderful Museum of Science in Boston. Typical evening CE lectures continue to bring in around 30 people, with an increase in student attendees this year.

The Education Committee was co-led by Patricia Lee, Ph.D. and Erica Appleman, M.A. this past year, with essential assistance from student board member Sagar Lad, M.A. We also welcome our new MNS Administrative Assistant, Pam Freitas who has been incredibly helpful assuming some Education Committee tasks.

Although Erica Appleman’s time on the Board of Directors has come to an end, she will continue to volunteer with the Education Committee next year. We have several exciting lectures already confirmed for Fall 2017, covering topics including frontotemporal dementia, neurotoxicity, and ethics.

**Speakers Bureau**
Molly Colvin Ph.D., Chair

The MNS Speakers Bureau welcomes new members and outreach opportunities. Please contact Molly Colvin (mollycolvin@mollycolvinphd.com) if you would like to learn about speaking opportunities or if you are unable to accept a speaking invitation and would like to pass it on to another MNS member. We would also welcome ideas about organizations to contact who may be interested in hearing from MNS members.

**PAC-FLASH: Update from the Professional Affairs Committee**
Jeffrey B. Sheer, Ph.D., ABPP
PAC Chair; PAC Flash Editor

Over the past several months, the MNS PAC has continued to move forward in several areas to advocate for our profession, our members, and the patients/clients that we serve. On the next three pages you’ll find some highlights of our current activities.
**PAC-FLASH continued**

**Advocacy with Insurance Companies:**

**MASSACHUSETTS**

**BCBSMA:** The MNS/MPA Joint Advocacy group met with representatives from BCBSMA twice in the fall of 2016 and will convene again on Monday, September 11, 2017. Dr. Azzara, Chair of the Joint Advocacy group, has been able to bring several unique concerns of members to resolution in many cases. In addition, the following substantial issues were also discussed:

- **Claims Greater than 8 Hours:** BCBSMA set out to resolve concerns about providers being paid for 8 hours of psychological/neuropsychological testing, despite having authorizations for higher units. A “glitch” in the Claims Processing department was resolved. BCBSMA indicated they will pay up to 16 hours for 96118 and psychologists should be able to bill "on the same line."

- **Timely Posting of Fee Schedule:** BCBSMA agreed it is reasonable to expect a fee schedule posted by the September 1. Even when BCBSMA is late posting rates, psychologists should expect payment for any rate increases for a date of service of September 1 or after. They reported that there was no reason to hold bills.

- **Out of State Issues:** BCBSMA has no control over plans from other states. Psychologists are encouraged to make a copy of the member’s card and verify the benefits, including asking about deductibles so there are no unexpected concerns at the time of billing.

- **Office Ally & BCBSMA** – after complaints from psychologists, BCBSMA released an official statement indicating that Office Ally had erroneously blamed BCBS for difficulties associated with payment of claims. The issue was with Office Ally, not BCBS. Members are reminded claims can be submitted through the secure BCBSMA website, as long as they are a contracted provider.

- **Authorization Requests/Denials:** BCBSMA did not provide statistics on how many assessment requests are turned down, but noted that the majority of requests are accepted – as written. However, BCBSMA indicated that often times the information on the Universal Authorization form may not be sufficient to approve a request, and sending additional information is helpful.

**Beacon Health Options:** The MNS/MPA Joint Advocacy Committee, represented by Drs. Clare O’Callaghan (Chair), Lori Azzara and Jennifer Warkentin (MPA), has continued to meet with representatives of Beacon, with the most recent meeting on June 12, 2017. Detailed notes of this meeting were distributed via the listserv, but some of the issues addressed were as follows:

- **Nokomis:** Beacon has contracted with an independent company to ascertain whether services billed by providers have proper documentation including detailed record to support hours billed. There remain challenges determining exactly what information/documentation is being requested. Member concerns presented to Beacon included an absence of feedback to date about the information that they have submitted, and concerns about maintaining confidentiality and providing the minimum necessary information to satisfy the purpose of the audit. The advocacy committee expects that a representative from Nokomis will be providing greater detail on exactly what information is necessary to satisfy requests. It appears that the Beacon representatives...
PAC-FLASH continued

are concerned about the problems their providing psychologists have experienced with Nokomis and are committed to helping to resolve them.

- Credentialing: There had been some delays in credentialing, but the backlog is current cleared and providers are now being credentialed in 30-90 days. The Mass Network is open. There was a delay when Beacon rates increased and letters informing providers of their credentialing were held up. These letters at this point should have been disseminated.

- Long Wait Times for Provider Relations Calls: New procedures were reportedly enacted on May 1, 2017. Providers were assigned a regional representative. Letters should have gone out to providers to let them know who their representative is. If a provider cannot locate that letter, they can call Provider Relations phone number and provide their business zip code and the representative will be identified. Providers can also access this information on the website.

- Payment Delays: There were some delays at the time of their rate hike, but Beacon now believes that providers are being paid on time. They indicated that the process is typically faster when claims are submitted electronically. Representatives are happy to assist providers get setup with Eservices.

- Reimbursement for assessment services provided by interns: Psychology interns, working in a licensed facility, get reimbursed. Based on the agreement with facilities, interns do not have to be credentialed. The facility is licensed, not individual providers. There has been no change to this policy. Interns working in a large group practice, where individuals are credentialed, cannot bill for their services.

Tufts Associated Health Plans: Dr. Margaret Lanca has continued to represent MNS as well as MPA at Joint Advocacy Meetings with Tufts. The following are some excerpts from a previous publication of their advocacy this year (April 2017).

- Same-day service denials. If a provider receives a claims denial with the reason that another behavioral health service was provided on the same day, the provider should resubmit the claim with modifier 59. That will divert the form to a reviewer who can approve the claim manually after checking the services.

- Fee schedules. The current fee schedule includes percentages of Medicare reimbursement rates instead of dollar amounts. The Medicare fee schedule look-up tool can be found at https://www.cms.gov/apps/physician-fee-schedule/overview.aspx Note that the locality number for Middlesex, Norfolk, and Suffolk counties is 01; the locality number for the rest of Massachusetts is 99. MPA will continue to advocate for annual fee schedules to include dollar amounts.

- Reconsideration requests for testing and treatment. Tufts has confirmed that their regulations do specify a different reviewer will respond to reconsideration requests. Providers also have the option to ask to speak to the original reviewer as part of the appeal. As a reminder, providers have the option to provide additional data as part of the reconsideration request if they choose, but there is no requirement that they must do that.

- Submitting prior authorization forms for testing and treatment. Providers may submit authorization forms for both
assessments and treatment via secure email (BHPriorAuthCommercial@tufts-health.com) or fax (617-673-0301). Tufts does not currently have a fillable pdf version of the form, but MPA is working on obtaining one.

- Information about completing prior authorization forms for testing. Tufts is finalizing a form that gives providers specific suggestions on how to fill out testing prior authorization forms to maximize the chances of approval. As soon as we have that document, we’ll distribute it to our members.

*Cigna:* While the MNS PAC does not currently hold meetings with Cigna, we would like to remind the membership that this year has been very exciting in terms of national advocacy efforts with Cigna Healthcare. On Jan. 23, New York's Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced that Cigna would be required to remove policies limiting coverage for neuropsychological testing. This victory was attained following extensive advocacy by the APA Practice Organization, the New York State Association of Neuropsychology (NYSAN) and the Inter Organization Practice Committee (IOPC). Since this victory and settlement, Cigna has released new MNC guidelines which are broader in scope and have theoretically reduced restrictions on assessments requests for several key diagnoses including concussion, mild cognitive impairment, and ASD. In light of these changes, we are encouraging members who may be providers of Cigna to continue to pursue authorizations for assessment of this nature, and to let us know about your experiences, or further restrictions/barriers to care that you experience.

**Toolbox Subcommittee:** The Toolbox Subcommittee under the leadership of Dr. Carol Leavell has previously generated a number of professional tools/practice materials specific to the practice of neuropsychology. These documents are available at the MNS Website through the following links: Committees- Professional Affairs- Practice Corner. Future goals include development of tips on progress notes for private practice that will meet insurance standards in the face of audit. If there are other tools that you would like to see available, please forward suggestions to pac@massneuropsychology.org.

**PAC Chair, Jeffrey B. Sheer, Ph.D., ABPP at 2017 Science Symposium (Photo Credit F. Geier)**

**Pearson Meeting:** During the Spring, President Mary Coakley-Welch received a request from a representative with Pearson to meet regarding the assessment needs of our members. Several members of the current PAC, attended this meeting in order to present several of concerns raised by our members, as well as our anticipated needs for the future of neuropsychology. The details of this meeting are highlighted on page two of this newsletter.
PAC-FLASH continued

Statewide Advocacy Efforts: At several points in the few year, members of the PAC as well as members of the MNS Board, have drafted letters to our congressmen and/or notified the membership of potential opportunities to advocate for our profession. We will continue to notify members as issues become available, but also encourage members to let us know about any issues that you specifically become aware of, that might benefit from organizational advocacy (letters from our organization to our congressman).

Interested in Professional Affairs? Join Us! In this challenging and rapidly changing health care climate, there is considerable need for our advocacy endeavors. At the PAC, we remain dedicated to our mission with our core group of dedicated volunteers, but we are always looking for new members to lend a hand in various roles including direct advocacy/leadership on our work with insurance companies, participation with ongoing PAC projects, as well as participation in new projects as suggested by the Board or membership. Your participation would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in discussing opportunities please contact me at pac@massneuropsychology.org.

FABBS Provides Opportunities for MNS to Participate in the National Conversation on Supporting Behavioral Sciences
Sandra Shaheen, Ph.D., ABPdN

MNS continues to play an active role in efforts of FABBS (Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences) to highlight the relevance of behavior sciences to policy and society. MNS members contributed to a special edition of Policy Insights in Behavioral Sciences. Scientist member Dr. Deborah Fein coauthored Optimizing Outcome in Autism Spectrum Disorders, and Dr. Stacy Gruber provided a timely review on effects of marijuana use in Marijuana on the Mind? The Impact of Marijuana on Cognition, Brain Structure, and Brain Function, and Related Public Policy Implications for a 2017 issue of the journal, edited by Princeton University professor and FABBS president Dr. Susan Fiske. Sage Publishers also supported the MNS Science Symposium with journal issues on topics relevant to neuropsychology for raffle. Sage provides open access to MNS members to the issues featuring MNS contributors for this academic year. http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/bbs/current

Dr. Rebecca Englander Amariglio, an MNS Science Symposium poster winner became the most recent early career psychologist to be honored by FABBS for her work on subjective cognitive concerns and AD biomarkers. Dr. Amariglio is a research investigator at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment at Brigham and Women's Hospital and has published with longtime MNS members Risa Sperling and Doreen Rentz. All MNS members are encouraged to consider other early career colleagues for future nomination.

MNS President, Mary Coakley-Welch, Ph.D. presents Rebecca Englander Amariglio, Ph.D. with her award from FABBS at the 2017 Science Symposium. (Photo credit: F. Geier)
FABBS continued

Scientist clinicians working in the area of sports concussion are invited to contribute to an upcoming convention in Washington in 2018. Contact Sandra Shaheen, MNS representative to FABBS for information on this opportunity as it becomes available. More detail on FABBS’ work in education, policy, interface with NIMH and NSF, and other initiatives is available on http://fabb.org/public-interest/.

Reach Dr. Shaheen at: longwoodneuro@earthlink.net

Please encourage other researchers to participate in MNS, and become part of these efforts. Thanks to Dr. Yakeel Quiroz for her help with the FABBS/MNS interface. We are looking for additional volunteers to outreach to MNS members involved in research, and to facilitate some of the many opportunities available to impact policy makers and granting institutions.

Summary of the Diversity Committee
Co-Chairs: Margaret Lanca, Ph.D. and Emily Wilner, Psy.D.

The MNS Diversity Committee has concluded another fruitful year promoting awareness and understanding of multicultural issues in the field of neuropsychology! We are pleased to announce the addition of several new committee members who bring with them a wide range of experiences working with culturally diverse populations. Our newest members include: Jessenia Arias, Mayte Forte, Khushnoo Indorewalla, Zully Lizarazo, and Yayci Patino. They join existing members Carmen Armengol, Yakeel Quiroz, and Komal Ramchandani.

The MNS Diversity Committee seeks to raise awareness of the influence of culture and diversity within the field of neuropsychology and support MNS members’ development as culturally competent neuropsychologists. One of the ways we aim to achieve this by creating and disseminating resources to enrich the delivery of neuropsychological assessments to multicultural populations. This year, we concluded work on the Multicultural Test Toolkit and launched a second project Multicultural Neuropsychology Reference List.

1) Multicultural Test Toolkit:
This resource contains a list of neuropsychological tests available in commonly spoken languages. The list is organized by language and includes the test name as well as specifics about each test (e.g., age range, population on which the test was normed, cognitive domain assessed, publisher information, and references). At present the toolkit contains tests in the following languages: Arabic, Portuguese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Taiwanese, French, Italian, German, and Russian. It can be accessed by MNS members at: www.massneuropsych.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3424

2) Multicultural Neuropsychology Reference List:
This is a new project currently underway, which aims to complement the Multicultural Test Toolkit with an annotated list of citations on the subject of multicultural neuropsychology. We plan to include references on a wide range of topics from literacy and bilingualism to working with interpreters and test selection with multicultural populations. Stay tuned for more information about this resource, which will be available to members on the MNS website.

MNS Diversity committee continues to welcome new members from the MNS
community! If you would like to participate in the committee or be included in our Directory of Multicultural Neuropsychologists, contact: Maggie Lanca, Ph.D.: Margaret.Lanca@hms.harvard.edu or Emily Wilner, Psy.D.: emilywilnerPsy.D@gmail.com

**Healthcare Reform Committee**
Mary Coakley-Welch, Ph.D., Chair

The Healthcare Reform Committee (HRC) continues to monitor and disseminate information related to healthcare reform (the federal ACA {Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare} and MA Chapter 224) and watch for opportunities for MNS to respond to agency requests for input, or for individuals to contact legislators. Since the November 2016 election, how healthcare changes will unfold has been uncertain, yet various national task forces working on new healthcare delivery and payment models have generally been confident that the focus on quality of care, better integrated care, cost containment, movement away from fee for service, and patient outcomes and satisfaction will persist.

The federal debate has largely focused on Medicaid expansion, health insurance exchange subsidies, and state waivers for covering the 10 Essential Health benefits as defined under the ACA (which include behavioral health), and limiting or blocking coverage for pre-existing condition. Regardless of what happens at the federal level, Massachusetts is deep into healthcare system changes based on the MA 2012 legislation (Chapter 224) that instituted ACA-like features. The future of Medicaid funding and expansion will likely impact Massachusetts.

**Responses to Requests for Comments:**

The HRC worked with the Executive Committee of the MNS Board to respond to MassHealth (state level) and CMS (federal Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services) requests for input.

MassHealth sought comments (July 2016) on their request for five-year funding from CMS to restructure payments and care delivery for better integration of behavioral health, substance use disorder, long-term supports, and health-related social services through alternative payment methods and ACO models. This was known as the Demonstration Extension Request/Medicaid Waiver. Members of the Professional Affairs Committee participated in writing our comments which focused on the expertise that neuropsychologists and other psychologists bring to the treatment team:

- Meeting the healthcare needs of MassHealth enrollees requires access to the full range of behavioral health services and that psychological and neuropsychological assessment services, in particular, will play a crucial role in achieving healthcare system goals in new care-delivery and payment models.
- To provide truly integrated care, ACO provider networks need experts on how physical and behavioral health conditions interact.
- The evidence base for the predictive and diagnostic validity for various psychological and neuropsychological assessment measures is strong.
- Neuropsychological and psychological assessments have significant clinical utility in many healthcare populations and, for some individuals, they are essential for diagnosis and treatment planning.
- In a transformed healthcare system, the early detection of emotional or cognitive symptoms in children and adults through routine screening that is followed up as needed with brief or comprehensive assessment should be an expected and typical procedure.

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**HRC Continued**

- Interventions with children are of primary importance since many risk factors observed in adults can be detected in childhood. Early intervention can change the trajectory of those symptoms.
- Healthcare providers in clinical practices need to identify and implement evidence-based treatments. As licensed psychologists with specialized, post-doctoral clinical and research training, neuropsychologists are well-qualified to read, interpret, and use the evidence-based practice literature.

Our response to specific CMS questions (March 2017) regarding pediatric care in new payment and delivery systems highlighted:

- The importance of early detection and treatment in childhood noted above.
- The need for access to assessment and treatment services in schools and other community-based settings.
- The need for reimbursement for care coordination and collaboration.
- The need for assurance that services and coordination needed and provided will be reimbursed without unnecessary procedural hoops to gain authorization for all Medicaid / MassHealth recipients — regardless of which health plan administers their BH (behavioral health) benefits — in order to encourage collaboration.
- The lack of financial incentives for behavioral health providers to adopt electronic health records (EHR) is a barrier to coordinated care; bh providers lag behind other medical providers in using EHR.
- A recommendation for partnerships between the Department of Education, Special Education, HHS/CMS, behavioral health/medical providers, DCF, early childhood agencies, and third party payers to truly address the complex needs of many children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP.

- Our role in program development and evaluation: With training in research, statistics, and program evaluation, neuropsychologists and psychologists could help design programs to evaluate best practices and determine efficacy of programs in improving health and reducing long-term costs.

**Neuropsychology Helps! Fact Sheets**

Members of the HRC continue to work on developing fact sheets that will help Primary Care staff understand how neuropsychologists can help them improve patient care and outcomes. The first in this Neuropsychology Helps! Fact Sheet series on Autism Spectrum Disorders will be available very soon. Please watch the list serv.

**News You Can Use from the HRC**

**(1) Electronic Transmission of Health Information**

Earlier this year, the Massachusetts EOHHS (Executive Office of Health and Human Services) and the Mass HIway (the statewide health information exchange) announced some regulations regarding Chapter 224-required connection to the Mass HIway to transmit patient health data:

“...At this time, only those Provider Organizations that are specified in the regulations, as opposed to individual licensed professionals, are required to connect to the Mass HIway. The regulations implement a phased-in approach whereby three groups of Provider Organizations have HIway connection dates specified in the regulations, and other types of Provider Organizations will be required to connect at later dates that are not yet specified.

The following three groups of Provider Organizations have required HIway connection dates that are specified in the regulations: (1) Acute Care Hospitals; (2) Large and Medium Medical
Ambulatory Practices; and (3) Community Health Centers.” These organizations have connection dates specified between 2017 and 2019.

“Other types of Provider Organizations (e.g., behavioral health entities, dental clinics, and nursing homes) will be required to connect at a date that will be specified in the future. Future guidance will provide at least one year notice for affected provider organizations to connect to the Mass HIway....” The connection date will be later than 2018.

Even though it is not yet required, any clinician or practice can connect to the Mass HIway and use it to exchange patient information with other clinicians and with patients, with patient permission. How-to-connect information is available at: http://www.masshiway.net/HPP/HowtoJoin/StepstoEnroll/index.htm

(2) MassHealth ACO Partners

Having been granted the MassHealth waiver to extend earlier pilot ACO programs focused on integrated care, behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment, long-term services, and health-related social services, Massachusetts announced in June that 18 healthcare organizations will participate in MassHealth ACO programs starting in January 2018. The MA EOHHS writes: (from the webpage below)

“When fully implemented, ACOs will be the way the majority of MassHealth members receive care. Member enrollment into ACOs is tied to their relationship with their current primary care physician to ensure continuity of this important relationship. Members who wish to opt-out of the ACO enrollment may do so within 90 days of being enrolled in a plan. MassHealth will also maintain the traditional managed care organization (MCO) program and is in the process of re-procuring it this year. In addition to partnering with ACOs, MCOs will continue to serve MassHealth members not enrolled in ACOs.”


Join the HRC

The HRC is open to all MNS members. To learn more or join, please click at the bottom of this MNS web page: https://www.massneuropsych.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3295

Electronic Communication

Tom Laudate, Ph.D., Chair

The Electronic Communication Committee (ECC) helps with aspects of operational support of MNS. Maintaining the MNS website, www.massneuropsych.org, is the currently the most visible of the ECC’s activities. In this past year, the website has been reorganized and updated to improve ease of use. This continues to be an ongoing mission.

MNS members are encouraged to explore the website and take advantage of the many resources housed there. In addition to signing up for MNS lectures, members may learn more about their elected MNS board of directors, access CE’s they earned at MNS educational events, and view the MNS directory. One may also access public and professional resources such as listings of local multilingual neuropsychologists and multicultural consultants, may request a talk from the MNS Speakers Bureau, and may listen to free audio "podcasts" of many of MNS’s past lectures. Stay tuned for more new content and features the ECC will be adding in the upcoming year.

Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/massneuropsych
Student Perspectives:
My experience serving on the MNS board
Erica Appleman, M.A.

When I was encouraged to consider running for a student position on the MNS Board of Directors, I had no idea how much effort goes into the maintaining the Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society. I had attended and volunteered at CE lectures and presented at the annual Science Symposium, but my first board meeting quickly introduced me into all of the work that goes on behind the scenes to advocate for this profession and advance our mission statement. As I reflect on my time spent as a student board member, I think it has been incredibly useful to have a window into issues that affect professional practice so early in my training career. I’ve had the opportunity to develop relationships and learn from both board and regular members of MNS, which has given me insight into the challenges, rewards, and unique opportunities available to neuropsychologists. More importantly, my time on the board has demonstrated the value of being involved professionally and encouraged me to remain an active member of the MNS community as I continue my training. I am passionate about the importance of supporting mentorship across all levels of training and hope to help move that goal forward for the future of MNS. Through engaging members in all career stages, we can support professional development across the lifespan - graduate students, interns, fellows, early, mid, and late-career professional alike. In the rapidly changing world of healthcare, sharing knowledge and group advocacy will be crucial to the future success of both research and practice, as well as improving the lives of the people we wish to serve. For those of you who have considered getting involved in MNS, I encourage you to take the first step - a small commitment can go a long way!

Student Perspectives:
My experience training in neuropsychology
Sagar S. Lad, MS/MA., CSP

Being a student trainee in neuropsychology in the heart of Massachusetts is both a privilege and an honor. You can feel the breath of history while learning the development and the practice of clinical neuropsychology. Not to mention, but the real estate for the ratio of neuropsychologist to supervision provides a handful of opportunities for current students. When I first began training, it was an intimidating process to absorb every resource of information and research on neurological conditions and psychological workups. Even more hair-raising was to translate this information to assessment batteries, and eventually to full neuropsychological reports. There was always a question in my mind, am I doing the Boston Process Approach justice? Though with time and appropriate supervision during practica and course-work, I slowly developed my growing “green thumb” for neuropsychological work, and building my foundations of brain-behavior relationships. It is assuring to know, that as I continue to train that I do not fear of not having the appropriate supervision or instruments to learn this trade. Though, you may still catch me lugging around the Bible, Neuropsychological Assessment-5th Edition, by Muriel Lezak. There is comfort in knowing that my supervisor does the same, because at any stage there is room to grow in this field, and really appreciate the perplexities of each individual patient using the process approach.

Membership Committee
Emily Wilner, Psy.D., Chair

MNS membership continues to grow! Our membership currently consists of 252 members. Since July 2016, we have welcomed 37 new members and 8 members transitioning
to lifetime membership. We hope to continue this trend moving forward.

**New members since July 1, 2016**

- 13 Regular Members
- 3 Associate Members
- 6 Post-Doctoral Members
- 15 Student Members

The Membership Committee would like to thank everyone for your outreach efforts and we encourage you to continue recruiting colleagues and students to join MNS.

Feel free to contact incoming membership chair, Flannery Geier, Psy.D. with any membership related questions:

[membership@massneuropsychology.org](mailto:membership@massneuropsychology.org)

We would like to thank our longtime outgoing committee member, chairperson, and board liaison, Dr. Sandie Shaheen, who has truly been instrumental in ensuring the success of the legacy awards program. We also welcome Dr. Cheryl Weinstein to our committee!

A list of Kaplan Award and Cermak Award recipients can be found on the MNS website at: [https://www.massneuropsych.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3404](https://www.massneuropsych.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3404)

### Legacy Awards Committee

Co-chairs: Lee Ashendorf, Ph.D., Cheryl Weinstein Ph.D., and Maxine Krengel Ph.D.

The Legacy Awards Committee has been honored and delighted to welcome recent MNS award recipients. In October 2016, we had the privilege of hearing 2016 Kaplan Award recipient Dr. Jane Holmes Bernstein present on “Systems, Process, and Product: What Do We Use for What?”. In April 2017, Dr. Sandra Weintraub, the 2017 Kaplan Award recipient, honored us with her presentation, “Neuropsychological Process Approach to Dementia”.

Maine moose. New Hampshire bears. Coastal Massachusetts gulls. Wildlife set in depictions of their natural environments surrounded our poster presenters as the 2017 Science Symposium opened with the annual Poster Session in the New England Habitats Exhibit Room in the Museum of Science, Boston. Over one hundred guests filled the room, hearing about Boston-area research and catching up with friends and colleagues.

Abstracts from the Poster Session are available on the MNS website: [http://www.massneuropsych.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3363](http://www.massneuropsych.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3363)

**2017 Science Symposium**

Mary Coakley-Welch, Ph.D.
Symposium Chair

*Poster session in New England Habitats Exhibit Room in the Museum of Science, Boston.*
*(Photo Credit: F. Geier)*
Hannah Franz, B.S. won the Nelson Butters Award for her poster “The impact of early life trauma on cardio-metabolic health in post 9/11 Veterans.” (Photo Credit: F. Geier)

Thank you to all presenters, their research colleagues, and their supervisors for making this such an informative and stimulating Poster Session.

Congratulations to the 2017 recipient of the Nelson Butters Award for best poster overall with a student first author, Hannah Franz, and to the runner-up, Ryan Andrews who was awarded Honorable Mention. Thank you to Poster Session co-chairs, Dr. Lee Ashendorf and Dr. Hope Schreiber, and to the judges, Dr. Nancy Hebben, Dr. Margaret Lanca, and Dr. Jenifer Walkowiak.

View from the Skyline Room where dinner was held at the 2017 Science Symposium. (Photo Credit: F. Geier)

Dinner, awards, and our CE lecture followed in the Skyline Room where guests enjoyed a panoramic water and Boston skyline view on a lovely May night. Guest speaker, Sonia Lupien, Ph.D. from the Universite de Montreal captivated the audience with her humor, data, insights, and stress-management programs that stem from her decades of work investigating the impact of stress on the human brain. Her neurodevelopmental perspective enlightened all - pediatric, adult, geriatric, and lifespan specialists. You can read about her work and resources for the public at www.humanstress.ca.

Guest Speaker, Sonia Lupien, Ph.D., delivering her talk, “From Neurotoxicity to Vulnerability: A Developmental Perspective on the Effects of Stress on the Brain.” (Photo Credit: F. Geier)
Awards and Thanks
After introducing and thanking departing Board members Past President Dr. Stephanie Monaghan-Blout, members-at-large Dr. Jeff Sheer and Dr. Emily Wilner, Treasurer Dr. Brendan Lynch, and student member Ms. Erica Appleman, MNS President Dr. Mary Coakley-Welch honored, thanked, and awarded MNS members who have provided outstanding service to the profession and the Society.

Erica Appleman, MA: Ms. Appleman was awarded the MNS Presidential Star for Exceptional Service to MNS during her two-year term as a student member of the Board of Directors. She served with distinction on the Education Committee (where she will continue after her Board term ends and she begins her Internship), and also stepped up to volunteer for innumerable projects and Board tasks. If it needed doing, Ms. Appleman was there.

Lee Ashendorf, Ph.D.: In recognition for chairing or co-chairing the annual MNS Poster Session since 2011, service on the Legacy Committee, research and research supervision, and co-editing the book, The Boston Process Approach to Neuropsychological Assessment, MNS honored Dr. Lee Ashendorf with an award for his Outstanding Service in Promoting Research and Preserving Legacies in Neuropsychology.

Joel Rosenbaum, Ph.D.: On the occasion of his retirement from the Professional Affairs Committee, Dr. Joel Rosenbaum was awarded for his Outstanding Service to the Profession. Dr. Jeff Sheer, Board member and Chair of the Professional Affairs Committee, presented Joel with the award on behalf of the MNS Board. Dr. Sheer detailed Dr. Rosenbaum’s decade of leadership work which includes serving as President of MNS, re-dedicating the Professional Affairs Committee’s advocacy work, and forging relationships with other state associations and national neuropsychology and research organizations to better advocate for client-access to neuropsychological services.

Rebecca England Armariglio, Ph.D.: MNS is a member of FABBS, the Federation of Associations in Brain & Behavior Sciences which is a “coalition of scientific societies that share an interest in advancing the sciences of mind, brain, and behavior” and which communicates “the importance and contributions of basic and applied research in these areas to policy makers and the public.” (www.FABBS.org) Dr. Coakley-Welch was proud to present MNS member, Dr. Rebecca England Armariglio with the FABBS / MNS 2017 Early Career Impact Award. Dr. Amariglio’s research focuses on “improving our ability to identify and track the earliest stages of Alzheimer’s disease (AD), by developing and optimizing sensitive instruments that measure subtle cognitive and functional changes.” (FABBS.org) Additionally, she studies subjective cognitive complaints.
and their association with objective cognitive findings, AD biomarkers, and longitudinal outcomes in nonclinical older adults.

MNS extends great thanks to the generous donors to the 2017 Symposium: NESCA (Neuropsychological and Education Services for Children and Adolescents); Billing Advantage; Child and Family Psychological Services Inc; Pearson; PAR; Boston Neuropsychological Services LLC; Beyond BookSmart; and Dr. Lori Azzara.

For their generosity in donating raffle items, we thank Dr. Karen Postal and Dr. Kira Armstrong (for their book, Feedback that Sticks), PAR (BRIEF 2 test kit), and Springer Publishers, and SAGE Journals/FABBS (several special journal issues).

This year’s Symposium was truly an evening to remember.

Nominating Committee
Stephanie Monaghan-Blout, Psy.D.

The Nominating Committee would like to thank all members who voted in the 2017 elections. We would like to congratulate the members who will be joining the Board in 2017:

- President-Elect, Joseph Moldover, Ph.D.
- Secretary, John Miner, Psy.D.
- Members-at large:
  - Viktorya Samarina, Ph.D.
  - Jenifer Walkowiak, Ph.D.
  - Katherine Gamble, Psy.D.
- Student representatives:
  - Randal Williams
  - Joseph Boscarino

We are very excited to have this talented team joining the leadership of MNS!

MNS Policy: Issue Public Statements on Policy Questions
2016-2017

As part of our mission, the Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society supports efforts to “promote research, clinical service, scholarly work, and education to enhance the understanding of brain-behavior relationships and neuropsychological disorders.” On occasion, opportunities arise for the society to take a public stand about a policy question.

Most of these situations involve government agencies or task forces seeking public comments on healthcare policies, education, or research in which the direct relationship to the MNS mission is clear. In these situations, the policy is for the Executive Committee of the MNS Board of Directors to decide if MNS will comment and work with members of other MNS Committees and/or other Society members to write the comments.

In other instances, the Board receives a request from MNS members or other people to take a stand on an issue. The policy in these situations is for the Board of Directors to review the request to ensure that the focus of the issues specifically involves the mission of the organization, as outlined in the statement quoted above.

Any plan to issue public comments is announced on the MNS list serv and all MNS members are invited to provide input and/or participate in drafting the comments.