INS News

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Adaptation and translation of the MoCA XpressO for use in Egypt

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INS | WHERE THE WORLD MEETS

2025
Issue 3
Annual Awards

THE INS NEWSLETTER TEAM

Greetings!

We are excited to share this another inspiring issue featuring exceptional neuropsychology professionals from around the world. Take a moment to read, reflect, and celebrate their success, you might just find a spark of inspiration for your own journey! Our global neuropsychology community thrives when we lift, learn from, and celebrate one another. Every achievement within our community is a victory for us all! You can always reach me at rj@the-ins.org for any thoughts or feedback.

Rhalf Jayson F. Guanco, PhD
INS Newsletter Editor

"Promoting the international and interdisciplinary study of brain-behavioral relationships throughout the lifespan. Emphasizing science, education, and the applications of scientific knowledge."

T. Rune Nielsen, PhD
Annual Awards

Ruchika Prakash, PhD
Special Interest

Talia Robinson, PhD
Clinical

Tricia Merkley, PhD
Clinical

Trevor Wu, PhD
Clinical

KC Hewitt, PsyD
Science

Victor Del Bene, PhD
Science

Omar Alhassoon, PhD
Global

Lena Dobson, PhD
Global

Daliah Ross, PhD
Social Media

Ryan Van Patten, PhD
NavNeuro

Emily Hallowell, PhD
NavNeuro

John Bellone, PhD
NavNeuro

Lena Etzel, MA
Student and Trainee

Christine Mullen, PsyD
INS Membership Engagement Commitee Chair

Melissa Lamar, PhD
GEC Chair

Leigh Schrieff-Brown, PhD
GEC Deputy Chair

MORE INFO

THE INS GOVERNANCE

We invite you to meet the current INS Governing Board members below.

INS OFFICERS

Natalia Ojeda, PhD
President
Feb 2024 – Feb 2027

Mary Kosmidis, PhD
President Elect
Feb 2025 - Feb 2028

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Past President
Feb 2023 – Feb 2026

Alberto Fernandez, PhD
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Feb 2023 - Feb 2026

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Feb 2023 - Feb 2026

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Feb 2024 - Feb 2027

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Feb 2025 – Feb 2028

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INS PRESIDENT'S CORNER

INS President's Message

The INS President's Corner shares the latest updates on our society's initiatives, upcoming events, and the vision guiding the global neuropsychology community. Hear from Dr. Natalia Ojeda, our current president, as she expresses her commitment to advancing neuropsychology and her heartfelt gratitude for the incredible journey she has shared with us over the past year.

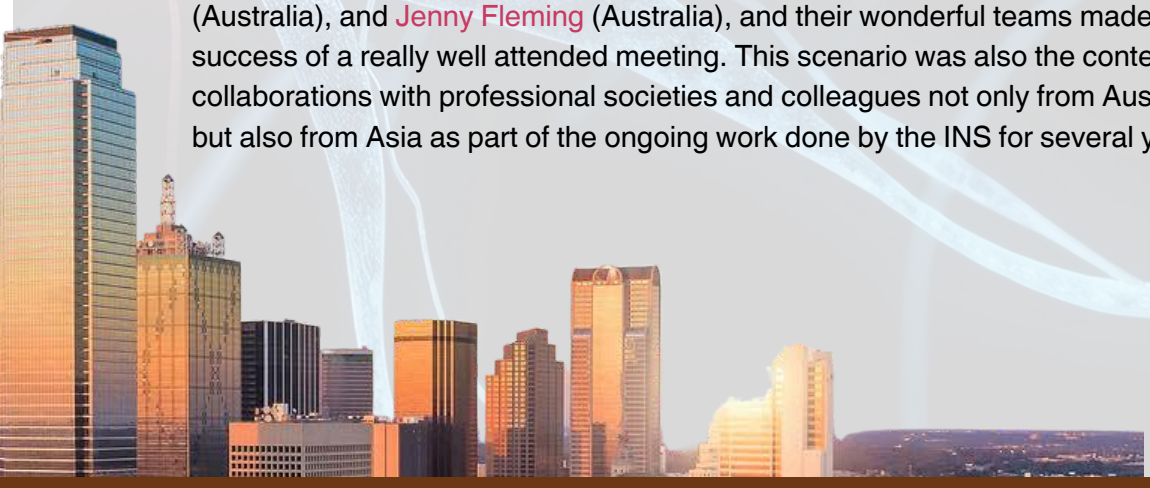
Natalia Ojeda, PhD
INS President

I hope all is good with you, wherever you are in the world. As I write this, in November 2025, I am aware of how many colleagues around the world are facing huge challenges, not just in delivering neuropsychological services, in teaching or conducting research, but in their own daily lives. Whilst neuropsychology has learned a great deal from people injured in wars and natural disasters, it is not how we want our science and practice to advance. I am sure I speak on behalf our whole INS family when I say that we are immensely grateful to colleagues who are working to support those affected by conflicts, wars, and natural disasters around the world.

This issue of the Newsletter focuses on the INS award winners from both the New Orleans and Brisbane meetings this year. Do not miss the opportunity to read more about the awardees. Congratulations to all the award winners! It is wonderful to be able to celebrate the contributions that all our award winners have made to neuropsychological science and practice and in service of our Society. It is an inspiration for all members. In addition, this is an opportunity to nominate a colleague that you think also deserves the recognition for Philadelphia 2026. Please find additional information about the nomination process here. The chair of the Awards Committee, Christian Salas, will be happy to respond to any questions if needed. The society is very alive and active in a very busy year. Many of our news items are announced weekly in our emails, but I would like to also share some initiatives and highlights here.

INS 7th Pacific Rim Conference, Brisbane

Our mid-year meeting was held in Brisbane, Australia July 2nd-5th and was a great success thanks to the incredible hard work of the three outstanding organisations involved: the International Neuropsychological Society (INS), the Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment (ASSBI), and the Australian Psychological Society's College of Clinical Neuropsychologists (CCN). Program Co-Chairs Drs. Kerryn Pike (Australia), Vince Oxenham (Australia), Jody Kamminga (Australia), and Jenny Fleming (Australia), and their wonderful teams made a great work for the success of a really well attended meeting. This scenario was also the context to strengthen collaborations with professional societies and colleagues not only from Australia and New Zealand but also from Asia as part of the ongoing work done by the INS for several years.



INS PRESIDENT'S CORNER

INS President's Message

INS February 4-7, 2026 Meeting in Philadelphia

Our next North American meeting takes place at the fantastic Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel, in historic Philadelphia. The submission process has been a huge success and both program chairs, Ruchika Prakash and David Schretlen, together with the scientific committee, are working really hard to make this meeting outstanding. Submissions are currently under review and if you submitted your work, you will be hearing back about it pretty soon. If you have not yet do so, please, have a look at the conference website to know more about our excellent list of plenary speakers, invited symposia, and CE workshops, as well as for any program updates – there really is something for everyone! What a wonderful opportunity to interact with the INS community of colleagues and friends. If you have not done so yet, please register for the meeting and plan ahead and do not miss this outstanding conference! Looking forward to seeing everyone in person there!

Nominations and Elections

I am very grateful to everyone who worked with the Nomination Committee to stand for election in our annual elections for new members of the Board of Directors. Standing for election is a big commitment and I am very grateful to everyone who agreed to be nominated and are willing to serve. I am delighted to welcome Miriam Beauchamp, from Canada (who will be our President Elect 2026-27), as well as Lingani Mbakile-Mahlanza, from Botswana as our Early Career Member at Large, Rune Nielsen, from Denmark as our Non-North American Member at Large, and Christopher Nguyen, from the USA as our North American Member at Large, on the Board of Directors as February 2026.

We want to say a BIG thanks to the board members outgoing for their wonderful and fruitful contributions during their term: Cady Block, Rochele Paz Fonseca, and Melissa Lamar, and to the chair of the Science Committee, Lena Dobson. They had an outstanding committee members and dedication to the INS and we all should be proud of their work.

INS PRESIDENT'S CORNER

INS President's Message

Our wonderful chair for CE credits, who helps us to keep updated in our training programs and requests for the A.P.A, Bemjamin Hampstead and the rest of the team for Phili, has put together top options for CE workshops for February 2026. Do not miss them. Maria T Schultheis, Professor at the Department of Brain and Psychological Sciences at Drexel University and Director of Clinical Training there has been elected to become the incoming CE credits chair. Bemjamin and María are already working as a team to coordinate the transition. The responsibilities also here are plenty and we are very thankful to both for accepting to work together in such a way to guarantee a smooth transition.

NEW at INS

Fellow of the INS Initiative (FINS)

We are delighted to announce the establishment of the Fellow of the International Neuropsychological Society (FINS) designation. This new recognition has been created to honor members who have demonstrated meaningful and sustained contributions to the Society. The FINS designation is independent from other awards and honors within INS and is intended to acknowledge a broad range of impactful contributions, including leadership roles, scholarly activities, mentorship, editorial service, meeting participation, and other significant forms of engagement. Eligibility requires a minimum of five years of continuous professional membership in INS, along with documented service and achievement in one or more recognized areas.

While FINS serves as a distinct honor in recognition of individual dedication and service, it is important to highlight that that proceeds from FINS applications will be directed to the Charles Matthews Fund, one of INS's major initiatives supporting education, training, and global engagement in neuropsychology. This is a one-time fee, equal to a single year of INS membership.

We are delighted to share that the inaugural class of FINS recipients will be inducted during the February North American Meeting in Philadelphia. This ceremony will mark the beginning of what we expect to be a lasting tradition of recognizing excellence and commitment within our membership.

The INS board has decided that the revenue generated from the FINS applications will be destinated to fund additional Charles Matthews Fund projects with a focus on global impact.

INS members seeking FINS recognition will have formal feedback expected by December 31.

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INS PRESIDENT'S CORNER

INS President's Message

Special Projects Fund Initiative

The INS Special Project Committee invited INS members with doctoral (or equivalent) degrees to apply for a non-recurring, grant of up to $5,000 to support innovative research or clinical activities. Funds may be applied to existing or new projects at the discretion of the recipient but should make a novel contribution in either case. Preference was given to projects with an international focus and those that promote justice and equity. After receiving multiple stellar applications, the INS is excited to announce that the first recipient of this award is the project entitled, "*Assessing Chronic Stress in HIV-Exposed Children Using Hair Cortisol Concentration: A Feasibility Sub-Study of the Healthy Child Study,"* headed by Dr. Kaylee van Whye, who is the Neurocognitive Study Lead for the Healthy Child Study led out of Stellenbosch University in South Africa. The project integrates a non-invasive biomarker of stress (hair cortisol) with neuropsychological and environmental assessments to advance understanding of developmental outcomes in HIV-exposed uninfected children. We have to acknowledge here the work of different teams but in particular, I will mention to Skye McDonald who originally design the idea of the SPF initiative, as well as the generous time invested by the review committee including Ketih Yeates, Margaret O'Connor, Igor Grant, and Kathleen Haalland.

Global Engagement

A jewel in the INS crown is our wonderful Charles G. Matthews International Neuropsychological Development Fund, which supports the development of neuropsychology around the world. Under the leadership of Dr. Melissa Lamar and Dr. Leigh Schrieff, the Matthews Funding program has expanded thanks to a generous donation and now includes three funding streams with Educational, Clinical, and Research awards. This year, it was possible to fund three applications:

1. One Education award is for a project at the **Annasawmy Mudaliar General Hospital in India**, coordinated by Jwala Narayanan, for the Workshop on *Neuropsychological Rehabilitation: Bridging clinical gaps in Brain Injury Recovery and Dementia*.
2. The Clinical Funding Award was for the project title "T*he Indonesian version of Addenbrooke's Cognitive Examination-III (ACE-III ID): Adaptation and diagnostic accuracy in people with MCI and dementia*" coordinated by Dr. Widhi Adhiatma at the **Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia.**
3. The Research Funding Awardees were Dr. Jamie Berry & Dr. Jacquelyn Berry, from **Macquarie University/Australia & American University in Cairo/Egypt** for research with a focused work in Egypt, entitled *"Adaptation and translation of the MoCA XpressO for use in Egypt".*

As a result of this support, the local community in neuropsychology in Egypt has also organized the "Cognitive Screening and Interventions in Egypt Conference", November 6-8th. Just another example of the great impact that our international programs achieve through the Charles Matthews Funds. If you want to donate for keeping the impact growing, please do by clicking here.

INS PRESIDENT'S CORNER

INS President's Message

Awardee Mentoring & Publishing (AMP-INS)

Led by Dr. Daryl Fujii and housed within the Global Engagement Committee, the newly initiated Awardee Mentoring & Publishing (AMP-INS) will provide mentorship through collaborative relationships with other INS programs. Initially, publishing mentorship will be offered annually to Matthew's Fund and Science Committee Travel Grant awardees. The long-range goal of AMP-INS is to extend mentorship to other researchers from low- and middle-income country either winning other INS-based awards (e.g., poster awards) or seeking mentorship toward publishing their work.

Please, have a look to the CM Fund website for additional details. If you are willing to support the CM Fund programs further, you can do so by a donation here .

Webinars

Our INS webinar program continues to provide fantastic talks on a wide range of key issues in neuropsychology. One of the great privileges of being INS President is the opportunity to invite a colleague to deliver a webinar, and I have invited Professor Tyl Wykes, from the University of King Colleague of London, to present a webinar on December 2nd, at 11am New York, 5 pm CEST, 8 am Pacific).

Dr. Wykes is a world leader in neuropsychological rehabilitation research and the coordinator of the Cognitive Remediation Working Group (CREW) with a focus on mental health and people with schizophrenia, psychosis and related disorders. Look out for the email inviting you to register for the talk! If you miss a live Webinar, catch up at our website.

We will have up to 31 webinars in 2025. We are working on delivering options for additional online training. Do not miss updating yourself with the NavNeuro platform for continued excellent opportunities.

Regulations

The new Policies & Procedures Manual will be completed before the end of this year. Cady Block, Committee chairs, board members, and many other colleagues all deserve our gratitude here. INS is also working on the development of a new Strategic Plan that is being led by Karen Blackmon and a committee of 13 additional committee members. Insights are being compiled from past board members and past presidents to have a broad and integrative overview of needs and goals.

These two actions have requested very long dedication, effort and care by the leaders, the committees' members, INS committee chairs and others. Two terrific collaborative initiatives with big groups involved and really good and productive outcomes that will serve our organization for better with very significant impacts.

Technology and Communications

A new Website has been developed and now accessible to make it easier to help you find information when needed and also more accessible and will be launched this year. If you do not yet, please follow us on our Social Media platforms. We have INS accounts on LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter/X, Facebook, and BlueSky. We're @INSneuro across platforms. This is a great way not to miss all the best of INS including all educational opportunities and latest news, as well as to get in touch with our community in a more direct way. And of course, please always read our journal JINS, where you will be able to appreciate the excellent work of our current editor John L. Woodard and the full editorial board.

INS PRESIDENT'S CORNER

INS President's Message

Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI)

As you know already, the INS board approved to evolve the past Justice and Equity subcommittee to a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee. The committee is reviewing all the policies to be in alignment with International Ethics and best practices. This committee will provide an accommodation liaison for the meeting in Philadelphia. If you are in the need of support here, you can reach the JEDI Committee by emailing the chair, Nara Andrade at nara.c.andrade@gmail.com.

In Memoriam of INS members

I want to have very special thoughts for those of our members and colleagues lost recently. I was very sorry to hear of the passing of colleagues such as our dearest colleague Bob Bilder who made a huge contribution to our field. At Philadelphia, we will have the pleasure to celebrate an In Memoriam symposium in his honor. He will be missed! You can read more about their lives and contributions here.

Financial Review

During the month of September, the INS budget for 2026 was reviewed, discussed and approved. As inflation rates are impacting everywhere, the board decided to adjust the membership fee with an increase to be able to keep supporting the same level and quality of the activities developed. I want to thank our Treasurer, Ozioma Okonkwo, Executive Director, Marc Norman, and our Finance Committee, and the INS Office staff for their work. Nevertheless, the board is actively exploring potential for the diversification of income and funding. There are so many exciting activities developing currently!

And Finally...

Finally, I want to thank our Executive Director Marc Norman, our INS Office team of Tandy Pietro, Jamie Wilson, Chantal Marcks, the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and Committee members who do so much to keep the INS running, along with all our members who give such huge amounts of time to support our Society and make it such a great community of friends and colleagues. Also, we warmly welcome Shelbie Humenberger to the INS office. A special thank you also to RJ Guanco who is our INS Newsletter Editor and does an incredible job putting together our newsletters – Thank you all!

If you have any questions or comments on things the Society is doing, please feel free to email me.

Finally, I want to specifically send our full support to all members that for any reason are undergoing stressful times. I am aware that some of you are facing challenges that were hard to imagine not that long ago. The global situation in the world and in some regions, is more demanding and problematic than ever. I wish you resilience. Please find in our community a network of support and comprehension. If we remain together, we will overcome it together.

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ANNUAL AWARDS COMMITTEE

A Message from INS Annual Awards Committee Chair Dr. Christian Salas

The INS Awards Committee was created to recommend current and past INS members to the Board of Governors for the purpose of recognizing outstanding achievement in areas related to neuropsychology and recognizing significant contributions made to the INS.

I feel fortunate to have shared this year with our Society. We had two gatherings in truly exceptional places. New Orleans was a surprise to me, and I must admit I spent weeks fascinated by its history — how the city was shaped both by forced human trade and by great waves of immigration, and how those transplanted cultures, coming from so far away, gradually found their place, moving from the shadows into the light of music, food, and popular traditions. It is astonishing how the city has recovered from the tragedy of Katrina and how resilience continues to define its spirit. Just as this city reflects resilience and diversity, our Society continues to evolve in similar ways. Our mid-year meeting took place in Brisbane, a beautiful city of lights and bridges. For me, it was particularly special because it was the first time I set foot on the land of Kevin Walsh, one of the pioneers of neuropsychology, whose influence helped shape the development of our discipline not only in Australia but also in many other countries that embraced his ideas.

As you may recall, one of the novelties of the INS Awards this year was the introduction of the Postdoctoral Award, created to recognize colleagues in the early stages of their careers. Rachel Rietdijk (AUS) was the first recipient of this award, for her work developing tools to support the rehabilitation of people with traumatic brain injury. I hope this award becomes increasingly popular each year and that we receive nominations from all around the world. Another change we introduced was to place all award categories on equal footing. This means that an award recognizing excellence in research carries the same value as one celebrating excellence in mentoring or education.

Christian Salas, PhD

This principle is reflected in our efforts to create space at our conferences for awardees to share their work in these often-overlooked areas. For instance, Jon DeLuca (USA) presented his lecture in New Orleans on “Thoughts on the Value of Mentoring in Neuropsychology,” and Montserrat Armele (Paraguay), recipient of the Lifetime Award for Education, gave her inspiring talk on “Meaningful Learning and Radical Conceptual Change.” As a committee, we strongly believe that creating these spaces in our meetings is essential to recognizing the many facets of our discipline and our Society.

I hope that in the coming year, 2026, you can be part of these initiatives — whether by nominating colleagues for the awards in Philadelphia or Dublin, or by attending the inspiring talks of our award recipients. If the INS Awards reflect the very best of our Society, don’t miss this opportunity. Come closer, take part, and join the conversation. If you have any ideas or suggestions, I warmly encourage you to reach out — your input is always welcome. Un abrazo desde Chile!

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INS ELECTION RESULTS

INS Newly Elected Board of Directors

Congratulations to the newly elected members of the INS Board of Directors! We are excited to welcome you as your terms begin at the close of the 54th Annual INS Meeting in Philadelphia.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to all the 2026 candidates for their unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions to our INS community. Your commitment continues to inspire us all.

Miriam Beauchamp, Ph.D.
President Elect
(Canada)

T. Rune Nielsen, Ph.D., DSBPP
Non-North American Member At Large
(Denmark)

Lingani Mbakile-Mahlanza, DPsyc
Early Career Member At Large
(Botswana)

Christopher Nguyen, Ph.D., ABPP
North American Member At Large
(United States)

INS International Neuropsychological Society *Founded in 1967*

EMERITUS MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

An update recognizing INS Emeritus Members for their enduring impact, leadership, and dedication to advancing the field of neuropsychology.

We're pleased to share that the criteria for **Emeritus Membership** have been refined in response to member feedback, ensuring they better reflect the diverse careers and retirement paths within our community. Members who have belonged to the Society for at least 10 years (in total, not necessarily consecutive), are age 65 or older, and have retired from their primary position may now qualify for Emeritus status. Emeritus members continue to enjoy full voting rights and eligibility to hold office within the Society. Recognizing that retirement circumstances vary, INS will work directly with those seeking Emeritus status to ensure they can remain engaged as valued members.

We deeply appreciate the lasting contributions of our long-standing members and look forward to supporting their continued connection and involvement with the Society.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Stay connected with a global community that values your contributions and dedication to neuropsychology. By renewing your membership, you'll continue to enjoy access to professional resources, networking opportunities, and programs designed to support your growth, learning, and impact in the field.

INS International Neuropsychological Society *Founded in 1967*

2025 CHARLES MATTHEWS FUND RECIPIENTS

Global Engagement Committee

EDUCATIONAL TRAINING

- Name of awardee: Jwala Narayanan
- Awardee's institution/organization: Annasawmy Mudaliar General Hospital
- Country of awardee: India
- Title of project: Workshop on Neuropsychological Rehabilitation in India: Bridging clinical gaps in Brain Injury Recovery and Dementia

The workshop aims to provide professionals in India with practical guidance on how to deliver effective neuropsychological interventions for people with brain injury and dementia tailored to the needs of Indian patients. It will feature sessions on cognitive and psychological interventions, group rehabilitation facilitation, managing challenging behaviours, involving families in rehabilitation and neuropsychological interventions in dementia. The program will offer actionable strategies to enhance patient outcomes by bridging gaps in current practices. Experts from India and an international faculty will contribute their knowledge to explore efficient service delivery models suited to a diverse country like India, where resources are often limited. Through this, we also plan to establish a network of neuropsychologists in India to foster collaboration, promote research, and enhance neuropsychological practices nationwide. The final day will focus on various aspects of dementia and discuss practical rehabilitation practices for India.

2025 CHARLES MATTHEWS FUND RECIPIENTS

Global Engagement Committee

RESEARCH FUNDING

- Name of awardee: Dr. Jamie Berry & Dr. Jacquelyn Berry
- Awardee's institution/organization: Macquarie University & American University in Cairo
- Country of awardee: Australia & Egypt for focused work in Egypt
- Title of project: Adaptation and translation of the MoCA XpressO for use in Egypt

The prevalence of dementia in Egypt has been estimated to be 2-5% (El Shahidi et al, 2017), and cognitive impairment has been estimated to be as high as 39% (Odejimi et al, 2020). Despite these high rates and projected increases in incidence and prevalence of cognitive impairment due to Egypt's ageing population, no cognitive screening tools have been appropriately validated for an Egyptian population according to the International Test Commission (ITC) guidelines. The current study aims to culturally adapt, translate and validate the MoCA XpressO for use in Egypt according to the ITC guidelines. The study will involve several stages of cultural validation, including assembling expert panels, holding focus groups, conducting interviews and running pilot and preliminary validity testing. This project will take place in the first half of 2025. This study will ensure the MoCA XpressO is culturally valid prior to a planned normative study.

2025 CHARLES MATTHEWS FUND RECIPIENTS

Global Engagement Committee

CLINICAL FUNDING

- Name of awardee: Dr. Widhi Adhiatma
- Awardee's institution/organization: Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia
- Country of awardee: Indonesia
- Title of project: The Indonesian version of Addenbrooke's Cognitive Examination-III (ACE-III ID): Adaptation and diagnostic accuracy in people with MCI and dementia

A recent study indicates that the prevalence of dementia in Indonesia is approximately 27.9% (Farina et al., 2023), and the number of people vulnerable to dementia is expected to rise with increasing life expectancy. Timely diagnosis is crucial to slowing dementia progression, underscoring the need for a sensitive cognitive screening tool. The Addenbrooke's Cognitive Examination-III (ACE-III) is a brief screening tool with proven sensitivity in detecting dementia, outperforming its predecessors, the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) and Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA). However, ACE-III has not yet been validated in Indonesia. This Clinical Development Fund project has two objectives: (1) to adapt the ACE-III to the Indonesian context (ACE-III ID) and (2) to evaluate its diagnostic accuracy in detecting mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and dementia. The adaptation process will follow the Neuropsychological Application of the International Test Commission (ITC) Guidelines for Translating and Adapting Tests (Nguyen et al., 2024). A multidisciplinary team of neurologists, clinical neuropsychologists, and linguists will ensure the tool's content validity and cultural appropriateness. ACE-III ID will undergo pilot testing with 20 participants (ten control participants and ten people with dementia) to assess cultural relevance and refine stimuli as needed. Diagnostic accuracy will then be evaluated in a larger cohort, comprising 50 people with MCI, 50 people with dementia, and 50 healthy controls. Participants will be recruited from western (e.g., Jakarta and surroundings) and eastern (e.g., East Nusa Tenggara) regions of Indonesia, stratified by age, education, and sex. Regional performance comparisons will assess whether region-specific norms are necessary. This project, conducted in collaboration with the Atma Jaya Ageing Research Center and Alzheimer's Indonesia, aims to produce a validated ACE-III ID. This tool will be a valuable resource for Indonesian clinicians, including neurologists, clinical psychologists, general practitioners, and nurses, for early and accurate dementia screening.

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CALL FOR FUNDING: CHARLES MATTHEWS FUND

Charles Matthews Neuropsychological Fund

Chuck Matthews, the 1992 President of INS, was a strong advocate for making INS instrumental in developing neuropsychology throughout the world, especially in low-resource countries. As a result of this passion, the INS instituted the Charles G. Matthews International Neuropsychological Development Fund in his name in 2003. In 2022, The Charles Matthews Fund received a donation to expand the actions being covered; the Research and Clinical Funds are those extensions.

The mission of the INS Global Engagement Committee (GEC) is to support the development of neuropsychology throughout the world. Our particular focus is on regions of the world where neuropsychology is less well developed, including low-income and middle-income countries.

The purpose of this fund is to support Educational and Training activities such as workshops, meetings and webinars in countries where neuropsychology is less well developed/resourced. Funds can be used to sponsor travel expenses for speakers, other meeting expenses or costs associated with running webinars, videoconferences etc.

Melissa Lamar, PhD
INS GEC Chair

INS now has two additional funds as an extension of the traditional Educational and Training format:

- Clinical for actions related to design of a clinical protocol to evaluate/diagnose, the design of an intervention tool to help patients with neuropsychological deficits, the translation/adaptation of materials not available into the local language, etc.
- Research for actions related to research design, statistical software acquisition, statistical analysis cost, acquisition of tests materials according to the study protocol, abstract submissions to scientific meetings, dissemination of results in scientific journals, etc.

Matthews Fund applications will be accepted from November 3rd through December 15. Decisions regarding funding will be communicated to applicants at or after the INS meeting in February 2026.

Clinical Proposal

Research Proposal

Educational Proposal

DONATE

INS SPECIAL PROJECT FUND

INS Special Project Committee

The International Neuropsychological Society (INS) proudly recognizes this year's INS Special Project Fund Recipient, selected for its novelty, practical impact, and commitment to advancing neuropsychology with an international perspective, promoting justice and equity. This competitive grant of up to $5,000 supports projects that demonstrate originality, feasibility, and meaningful contribution to the field, with special consideration for early career researchers and globally relevant initiatives.

Assessing Chronic Stress in HIV-Exposed Children Using Hair Cortisol Concentration: A Feasibility Sub-Study of the Healthy Child Study

Background: Early life stress profoundly affects neuropsychological development including cognition, emotion regulation, and behavior via dysregulation of the hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis, altering cortisol patterns and impacting key brain regions such as the hippocampus, amygdala, and prefrontal cortex (Pervanidou et al., 2022; Makris et al., 2023). Children exposed to poverty, chronic illness, or psychosocial adversity experience physiological stress even when not outwardly observable (Bates et al., 2017). Hair cortisol concentration (HCC) provides a non-invasive biomarker of cumulative stress over weeks to months, with elevated levels linked to internalizing and externalizing psychopathology (Bates et al., 2017; Littler et al., 2025). Research on HCC in socioeconomically disadvantaged, HIV exposed children in low- and middle-income countries is limited. Integrating HCC into the South African Healthy Child Study (HCS) presents an innovative opportunity to examine how chronic stress is biologically embedded and influences neuropsychological outcomes in a historically underrepresented population, promoting justice and equity in neuropsychology research.

Aim: To evaluate the feasibility of hair cortisol sampling in HIV-exposed children and explore preliminary associations with neuropsychological and environmental outcomes. Design: This nested feasibility sub-study within the HCS will collect hair samples at the 8 year visit alongside neuropsychological assessments, leveraging existing longitudinal data.

Participants: Approximately 50 HIV-exposed uninfected children from the cohort will be included; caregiver consent and child assent will be obtained.

Procedure: During neuropsychological visits, a small (3 cm) hair sample will be collected from the posterior vertex, stored for cortisol analysis, and linked with assessments of cognition (KABC-2), motor skills (BOT-2), attention (TOVA), behavior (CBCL), and home environment (HOME-21).

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The International Neuropsychological Society (INS) proudly recognizes this year's INS Special Project Fund Recipient, selected for its novelty, practical impact, and commitment to advancing neuropsychology with an international perspective, promoting justice and equity. This competitive grant of up to $5,000 supports projects that demonstrate originality, feasibility, and meaningful contribution to the field, with special consideration for early career researchers and globally relevant initiatives.

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Data Analysis: Feasibility will be assessed through recruitment rate, sample adequacy, acceptability, and laboratory yield. Preliminary associations between HCC, socioeconomic status, neuropsychological performance, and behavioral outcomes will be explored using correlational analyses.

Ethics: Approval will be obtained from the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University HRECs. Procedures adhere to Good Clinical Practice and the Declaration of Helsinki, ensuring participant confidentiality and safety.

References:

1) Bates, R., Salsberry, P., & Ford, J. (2017). Measuring stress in young children using hair cortisol: The state of the science. *Biological Research for Nursing*, *19(5)*, 499–511.
2) Littler, E. A. L., Butt, Z. A., Gonzalez, A., & Ferro, M. A. (2025). Association between hair cortisol and psychopathology in children with a chronic physical illness. Stress and Health. 3) Makris, G., Eleftheriades, A., & Pervanidou, P. (2023). Early life stress, hormones, and neurodevelopmental disorders. *Hormone Research in Paediatrics, 96(1)*, 17–24.
4) Pervanidou, P., Agorastos, A., & Chrousos, G. P. (2022). Editorial: Stress and neurodevelopment. *Frontiers in Neuroscience, 16*, 898872.

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INS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Leanne Togher, PhD (Brisbane) and Montserrat Armele, PhD (New Orleans)

Leanne Togher, PhD
Research (Australia)

This award recognizes Leanne Togher, PhD, an independent, established senior researcher with an international reputation and a transformative impact on neuropsychology. Her contributions include the development of a significant body of knowledge within her area of expertise and the promotion of influential theoretical frameworks. Her work has fundamentally shaped our field.

Montserrat Armele, PhD
Education (Paraguay)

This award recognizes Montserrat Armele, PhD, an individual who has advanced neuropsychology beyond her own institution. Her educational impact, through books, courses, or other methods, has had national and international influence. Her contributions have significantly shaped the field of neuropsychology education worldwide.

PHOTO/CANVA

INS DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

Robin Morris, PhD (New Orleans)

Dr. Morris, what has been the most rewarding part of your career/What are you proudest of accomplishing?

Robin Morris, PhD
(England)

Towards the start of my career, my dementia work involved some degree of frameworking concerning the psychology of dementia, which at the time was pioneering and I think subsequently influential. This led to a book with Professor Edgar Miller with the same title, published in 1993, and also an edited book on the neuropsychology of Alzheimer's disease that was in two editions, starting in 1996. Additionally, with various PhD students over the years we developed the Cognitive Awareness Model, which has been successful in understanding different types of loss of awareness or insight in people with dementia.

I am still working on it, also incorporating ideas concerning the self. Beyond that, being able to supervise some very talented researchers and clinicians and seeing them progress in their careers, and perhaps these days this is what I am most proud about.

Given all of your accomplishments in the field of neuropsychology, how and where do you get your motivation to keep going?

A leading question and not one that encourages modesty! I have always been intellectually curious and this does not seem to stop. Also these days I feel grateful I can continue to work with brilliant people who wish to collaborate with me.

What advice do you have for early career neuropsychologists who would also like to make an impact on the field?

More generally I have started asking my grown up children for advice about things affecting people of their generation, since they seem so much better informed than me. I tend to chat to people about their work and for me this seems to be better than giving advice. I was very fortunate to have very good mentors early on, including ones who wisely suggested keeping going as long as possible with supervised research to build up my research skills and output before I focused on a more settled career. I realize this is easier said than done.

> **...I feel grateful I can continue to work with brilliant people who wish to collaborate with me.**

INS DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

Robin Morris, PhD

In terms of clinical work, I would say to try not to get stuck in one framework of thinking - I have found the biopsychosocial approach generally useful and I enjoy switching between the different levels both in research and working with patients.

What is the future of the field of neuropsychology?

Although only part of the future, I think Artificial Intelligence (AI) is going to have a huge impact for both neuropsychological assessment and neurorehabilitation. It is just around the corner or already here. For example, AI will be able to control and administer neuropsychological tests, analyzing the results, and formulating. I think it will be commonplace that neuropsychologists will start to work alongside AI systems in terms of patient interface. For neurorehabilitation, much of what traditionally involves talking to a patient might be done using AI. Here again, neuropsychologists will work in partnership. Many things, of course, will still need a person to do the work. To me this challenges us to reflect on what it is to be human and what makes human contributions distinctive or special. I think it will be very important as progress is made that we think carefully about what people want in terms of human versus machine interaction and we should constantly by talking to patients about their views on this matter as a first port of call. Likewise, research will be guided more by intelligent machines, also integrating bio information with psychosocial. All this could make neuropsychology less costly and more accessible, but it has to be implemented in a way to preserve human agency and dignity.

PHOTO/CANVA

INS DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

Jennie Ponsford, PhD (Brisbane)

Biographical Details

Jennie Ponsford, PhD
(Australia)

Jennie Ponsford, PhD, is Professor of Neuropsychology in the School of Psychological Sciences at Monash University, where she established and directed the doctoral training program in Clinical Neuropsychology 2000-2019. She is Director of the Monash-Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre at Epworth Healthcare. Over 42 years she has conducted clinical work and research with individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI), investigating outcomes and the efficacy of rehabilitative interventions, with over 470 publications, including two books.

Jennie Ponsford is Past-President of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS), International Association for Study of TBI and Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment. Click here to know more about Dr. Ponsford.

PHOTO/CANVA

PHOTO/CANVA

INS EARLY CAREER AWARD

Luis D. Medina, PhD (Brisbane)

Dr. Medina, can you provide a brief summary of your INS award-winning work?

My work focuses on advancing cultural neuropsychology through community-engaged approaches, particularly in the context of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Much of our field's traditional tools and methods were not designed with historically excluded communities in mind, which has led to gaps in accurate diagnosis and care. My research builds partnerships with Hispanic/Latino communities to co-develop, adapt, and validate messaging, strategies, and tools that are culturally and linguistically appropriate. By meeting communities where they are and treating them as knowledge-holders, this work not only improves the science of assessment but also helps rebuild trust in research and care systems.

Luis D. Medina, PhD
(USA)

What are the future directions of your current research program?

Looking ahead, I see my research program expanding in two main ways: building larger networks of interdisciplinary collaborators and deepening community partnerships. A key feature of my research has been addressing barriers to brain health literacy in Hispanic/Latino communities as a way to foster greater inclusion in Alzheimer's and dementia research. We recently co-developed a culturally grounded toolkit in partnership with community members and local organizations to improve knowledge and conversations around brain health. We are now testing this toolkit to see how it can best support the recruitment of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) older adults into research studies. The goal is not only to expand representation in research but also to create pathways for advancing precision medicine approaches for brain health that reflect the realities of CALD communities. In this way, the work bridges community engagement with cutting-edge science, ensuring that future discoveries benefit those historically left out of research.

> **... By meeting communities where they are and treating them as knowledge-holders, this work not only improves the science of assessment but also helps rebuild trust in research and care systems.**

INS EARLY CAREER AWARD

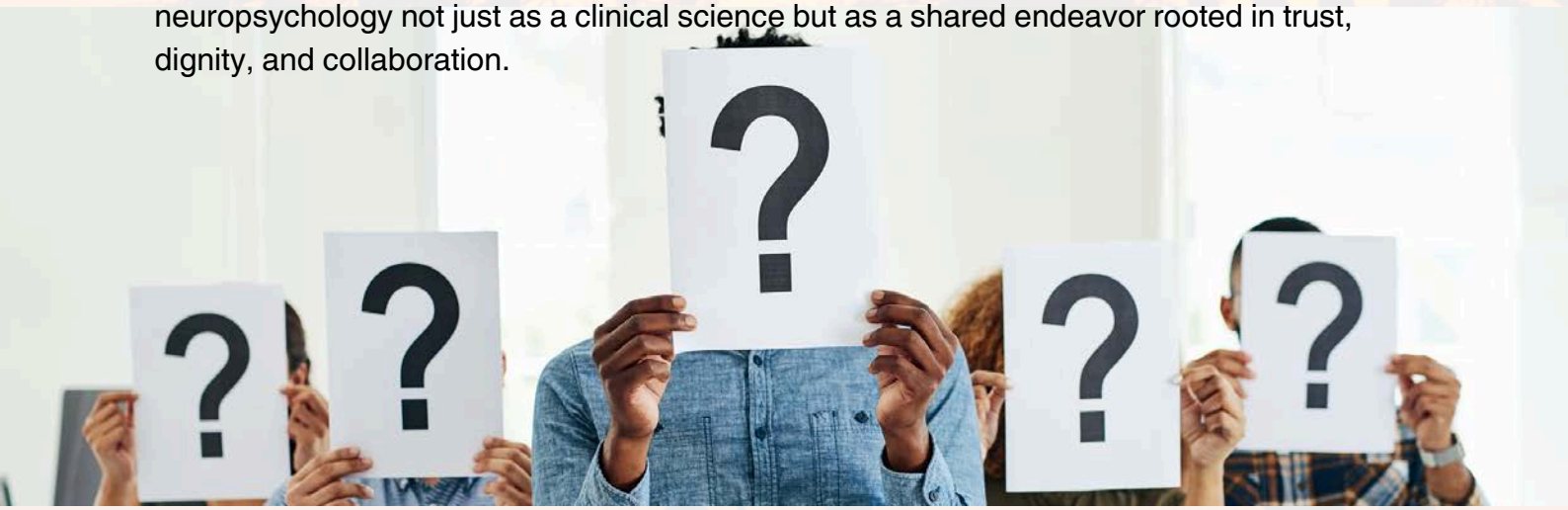
Luis D. Medina, PhD

What advice do you have for trainees and early career neuropsychologists hoping to also make an impact on the field of neuropsychology?

My biggest advice is to stay grounded in your "why." Neuropsychology can be demanding, and it is easy to get caught up in metrics of productivity or traditional measures of success. But if you lead with the communities and patients who inspire you, your work will have impact in ways that are both meaningful and sustainable. I also encourage trainees to seek out mentors and collaborators across disciplines, as complex problems often require broad perspectives. Finally, don't be afraid to carve your own path; innovation often comes from questioning assumptions and imagining what the field "could" look like if designed with equity and inclusivity at its core. As one of my friends would often remind me, "Don't fear failure. The path to success lies within it."

Who has influenced your development and success as a neuropsychologist?

I have been fortunate to learn from many mentors and colleagues, but the deepest influence has been my family, particularly my grandmother who lived with Alzheimer's disease. She shaped my commitment to this work and reminded me that behind every assessment or dataset is a person with a story, a family, and a community. Professionally, I have been influenced by numerous mentors who modeled both scientific rigor and cultural humility; they taught me that great science requires both careful methodology and respect for the lived experiences of others. I am deeply grateful to my mentees, who continually inspire me to grow into a better version of myself as a scientist, clinician, mentor, and community partner. I also continue to be influenced by community partners, who challenge me to see neuropsychology not just as a clinical science but as a shared endeavor rooted in trust, dignity, and collaboration.



> **... stay grounded in your "why." Neuropsychology can be demanding, and it is easy to get caught up in metrics of productivity or traditional measures of success.**

INS EARLY CAREER AWARD

Jennifer Rabin, PhD (New Orleans)

Dr. Rabin, What are the future directions of your current research program?

Jennifer Rabin, PhD (USA)

My upcoming research is centered on understanding Alzheimer's disease risk in groups that have historically been underrepresented in research. One major focus is on women, since they are disproportionately affected by the disease. I am particularly interested in how menopause, and especially early menopause, may contribute to this heightened risk. In addition, I am examining dementia risk in Canadian Asian populations that have been largely overlooked, including South Asian and Chinese groups.

To address these questions, my team is applying a deep phenotyping approach that integrates neuroimaging, comprehensive cognitive assessments, plasma biomarkers, and detailed questionnaires. Our goal is to uncover the mechanisms of risk and resilience, with the ultimate aim of guiding prevention and intervention strategies that are both more inclusive and more effective.

What advice do you have for trainees and early career neuropsychologists hoping to also make an impact on the field of neuropsychology?

Here are a few things I would recommend. First, pursue the questions that truly inspire you, even if the path forward is not always straightforward. Research often unfolds in unexpected ways, and following your curiosity can lead to the most rewarding discoveries. Strong mentorship is invaluable, but it is equally important to build supportive peer networks and collaborations across disciplines. Neuropsychology intersects with many other disciplines: neuroscience, public health, neurosurgery, and digital technology, and some of the most exciting advances come from these connections.

Second, work on developing a strong toolkit. Whether through advanced imaging, biomarkers, or analytic methods, these skills provide flexibility in how you approach both research and clinical work, and they allow you to bring innovation and novelty to your contributions. At the same time, always remember the people behind the data. The clinical side of what we do is what grounds our science and reminds us why our work matters.

Finally, think about impact in a broad way. It is not only about publishing major research findings, but also about mentoring others, sharing knowledge, and contributing to a field that is more equitable and inclusive. These efforts are just as important for shaping the future of neuropsychology.

INS MID CAREER AWARD

Lucette Cysique, PhD (Brisbane)

Dr. Cysique, can you provide a brief summary of your INS award-winning work?

I was nominated based on my research work on the neurocognitive complications of HIV and COVID-19. In HIV, I have contributed to the documentation of the HIV-associated neurocognitive disorder's epidemiology first in Australia and then in many other countries. I continue to work with international colleagues (Drs. Reuben Robbins and Reena Rajasuriar) to document HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders with focus on Low-Middle-Income Countries. I have also contributed to a better understanding of the pathophysiology of HIV once people are stable on treatment and HIV is suppressed with antiretroviral medications. For example, I have pioneered studies combining neuropsychology, neuroimaging and biomarkers on the legacy effects of HIV infection on cognition, the impact of aging and cardiovascular diseases on HIV neuropathogenesis, and the brain health benefits of antiretroviral treatments in randomized control trials.

Lucette Cysique, PhD
(Australia)

In neuropsychology, I have worked to improve longitudinal analysis methods for detecting cognitive change at the individual level and contributed to the development of longitudinal normative data. When the COVID pandemic arrived, I founded the NeuroCOVID SIG with Emilia Łojek and Bernice Marcopulos and with the SIG we published some neuropsychological testing recommendations in JINS. I also contributed to biomarkers and neuropsychology research in Long COVID.

What are the future directions of your current research program?

I am working on post-infective illnesses including Long COVID or post-sequelae of COVID-19 (PASC) and from this work, I am increasingly interested in other post-infective illnesses. The kind of symptoms we see after acute COVID-19 have been well described after other infections (EBV, Ross River Viruses) and even after bacterial infections (Q Fever). Working with my new mentor Professor Andrew Lloyd at the Kirby Institute, I am excited to learn more about the post-infective fatigue syndrome framework. Now, I am developing studies that include neuroimaging and biomarkers in this research. I continue to do some work this in NeuroHIV and Aging Advocacy Group with international collaborators, community members, and people with lived experience. My aim is to advocate for dementia prevention and treatment in this population which has been ignored in this regard.

INS MID CAREER AWARD

Lucette Cysique, PhD

I am also doing work on cross-cultural neuropsychology work, teaching at The University of New South Wales Psychology department and working on a book chapter with neuropsychologist, Dr. Matt Staois. This will be the be the 1st ever cross-cultural neuropsychology book dedicated to this topic in Australia. We are behind. Other colleagues are also doing this with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres and Straight Islanders, and I try to support this as much as possible, although I purposely avoid the identity politics of it which I think is detrimental to science. This last aspect also in line my creole intellectual heritage for example the writer and thinker Edouard Glissant.

Lastly, one of the most rewarding aspects of what I am currently doing is working with smart students! And my current PhD student, Dr. David Jakabek who is a neurologist, is doing his thesis on Alzheimer's disease (AD) and the role of immune and vascular pathology. I initially trained in AD, and I am still doing some clinical work in AD, as part of clinical trials. The immune and vascular aspects of brain injury which I learnt through my HIV research are highly relevant to this issue. So, this is very exciting. I also want to keep up because of the relevance of this work to people ageing with HIV.

What are the future directions of your current research program?

I would say pragmatism, adaptability, resilience, and confidence especially for women. My career is not typical, so my advice is likely influenced by this. I am a French export having received excellent education, I then encountered barriers to complete a PhD because of my lower middle-social class and being from French Caribbean Ancestry on my father's side (Guadeloupe).

There is no DEI in France, and some of my supervisors then were quite candid: considering where 'I was coming from', it was already good that I had a Masters in Neuropsychology. It is good that I have always been confident and always wanted to be a researcher. I was told that situation improved in France, but that this may be going backward like in other countries. I am saddened that after a few decades of adjustment; we are facing such a backlash. Anyway, this is why I ended up doing my PhD in Australia as well as having an Australian partner. But the bottom line is that I would have left France. So, another advice is do not be afraid of moving and change if you must, although family/chosen family/friends and academic support is key.

Next is perseverance which I have since a young age thanks to my grandmother. This implicitly means that with perseverance there needs to be mentorship. And don't be afraid to have a mentor for different aspects of your career. To the EC neuropsychologists, especially if you are doing research, I would say, adaptability is increasingly vital. You may have to change field one day as I am currently doing. Being considered a newbie when one has had a senior career in another field is a challenge. Here again the support of mentors is critical. With this, a high level of self-awareness, cross-cultural competence, and social intelligence will be very useful.

Lastly, try to ignore people who are negative as much as possible. And if you cannot avoid them, be strategic around them. Learn from your clinical psychology training about challenging personalities and approach this as an exercise as much as possible. Patience is very important.

PHOTO/CANVA

INS MID CAREER AWARD

Lucette Cysique, PhD

Who has influenced your development and success as a neuropsychologist?

I have had several mentors who have tremendously impacted on me. I choose my collaborators and mentors carefully. Those who I have had long-term share intellectual and epistemological viewpoints with me. Besides being great scientists, they are also intellectually generous and fundamentally kind as people.

First is Professor Bruce Brew who is a neurologist at the Sydney St. Vincent's Hospital and Prof of Medicine at the University of New South Wales. He welcomed me when I arrived from France for my PhD and continue to support me to this day. He is one of the most creative scientists I know. Prof. Brew has been and is instrumental in my understanding of HIV neurology and neuropathogenesis.
Then there is Professor Paul Maruff, a neuropsychologist at the University of Melbourne and ex Cogstate scientist who exposed me to new way of thinking about neuropsychological testing via computers with high relevance to the detection of cognitive change and a highly flexible approach to cross-cultural neuropsychology. We are also still very much in contact. He was my co-supervisor during my PhD. He is always ahead of the times. Of course, there is Professor Bob Heaton at UCSD now distinguished/emeritus; eminent neuropsychologist. He was my post-doc supervisor. Prof. Heaton gave me enormous strength and confidence in my neuropsychology work through his scientific and methodological rigour, attention to details about quantitative neuropsychology, and the use of the right word in scientific articles

Prof. Heaton and I are still in contact. He likes my franc-parler which means a lot for me as he exactly graps that my candidness is never bad intentioned, but for scientific improvement.

Prof. Sean Rourke, a neuropsychologist at St. Michael's Hospital and the University of Toronto in Canada. Prof. Rourke has been incredibly supportive of my HIV and ageing work and has taught me so much about person-centred approach. We work together today, and I hope that this collaboration will support more young researchers on HIV and ageing issues. Prof. Rourke life attitude is very positive, and I definitively need this. French people can have a pessimistic side which can end up in revolution!

Then there are two women scientists. Prof. Lindy Rae at Neuroscience Research Australia and the University of New South Wales. She is a professor of brain imaging and a neurochemist by training. She is the only scientist who agreed to teach me neuroimaging in details having been interested in it since a young age. We have done great work together using various MRI methods and continue till today. She has also improved my grant writing skills, another incredible gift.

Prof. Edwina Wright, an infectious disease physician at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne and researcher at The Burnett who has supported me in reaching international research standing by including me in major clinical trials. She has huge respect for my neuropsychology knowledge, and this kind of accolade is invaluable.

INS MID CAREER AWARD

Lucette Cysique, PhD

There is my current mentor Professor Andrew Lloyd, an infectious disease physician and a clinical and basic scientist at the University of New South Wales, the Kirby Institute where I am currently based. He is teaching me everything about post-infective illnesses and more. Like my other mentors, he is generous and extremely intelligent. There have been many other people. For relevance to INS, I will cite Professor Skye McDonald who has always been supportive when I needed and still is! For acknowledgement of my current funding, my busy new mentor Prof. Sharon Lewin who still makes time for guidance at a level that only her can provide.

Finally, thanks to all the research participants, and thanks to the HIV, COVID community leaders who I work with. Despite some hardship in being where I am today and continued stress about funding, I cannot thank all those people enough. My aim is to do more research with the coming young generations, to support them to the best of my abilities in a generous and intellectually stimulating way and make some advancements that will improve the brain health of people across the world.

PHOTO/CANVA

INS MID CAREER AWARD

Angela Jefferson, PhD (New Orleans)

Dr. Jefferson, can you provide a brief summary of your INS award-winning work?

Angela Jefferson, PhD
(USA)

The work I presented at INS centers on understanding how cardiovascular risk factors, particularly arterial stiffening, contribute to the development of Alzheimer's disease (AD) and related dementias (ADRD). Using data from the Vanderbilt Memory and Aging Project, a decade-long observational study of older adults for which I serve as the principal investigator, we have shown that arterial stiffness is associated with reduced cerebral blood flow, a higher burden of cerebral small vessel disease, elevated cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers of AD and neurodegeneration, and worse neuropsychological outcomes. Complementing these findings, our translational research using animal and cell models is uncovering the underlying mechanisms driving these associations.

Together, our work reveals how mechanical damage from arterial stiffening disrupts cerebral microvasculature, accelerates neurodegeneration, and contributes to cognitive decline. These discoveries emphasize the importance of vascular health in preserving brain function and inspire new strategies for preventing and treating cognitive disorders in aging.

What are the future directions of your current research program?

We were recently awarded the P30 Center for Excellence grant, establishing us as an NIH-designated Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC), the first of its kind in Tennessee. The Vanderbilt ADRC (VADRC) is a world-class interdisciplinary hub focused on understanding the critical intersection between vascular risk factors and ADRD. Located in a region with a high burden of vascular risk and ADRD, our research program will deeply phenotype more than 400 older adults annually, leveraging clinical, neuropsychological, cardiac imaging, neuroimaging, biofluid, and post-mortem data to explore the cellular, systems biological, and population-level mechanisms underlying ADRD. Through robust community partnerships, we aim to raise awareness about vascular risk factors and ensure recruitment that is representative of our local population. The VADRC is equally dedicated to training the next generation of ADRD clinicians and scientists, with a strong emphasis on supporting the development of early-career researchers. With this designation, the VADRC is poised to drive transformative advancements in ADRD research, prevention, and care.

INS CAREER MENTORING AWARD

John DeLuca, PhD (New Orleans)

What is most rewarding about being a mentor?

I truly enjoy being a part of the professional growth and development of my mentees and watch them become successful as the years go by. The enthusiasm, passion they bring, and new knowledge that I learn from my students keeps me honest and fosters my own growth. I enjoy and relish in their success as I follow their careers.

John DeLuca, PhD
(USA)

What are the characteristics of an effective mentor, and why they're important?

I would say the most important thing is to be a good listener. Not only hear what your students say but understand what they really mean. Everyone is different and will require different approaches to achieve success. But do not change the goals. Goals should be developed together and right up front. Stick to the goals, because this is indeed how students will benefit the most.

What advice do you have for future or current mentors to help their students/supervisees find success in the field of neuropsychology?

Encourage, build confidence and be honest. Building confidence is a key to success. Confidence in their training, experience and expertise will help in facing the challenges in the upcoming “real world” as a professional. It is very important to let our students know that they are the experts, so they should act like one. Encourage continued learning, as it doesn’t end with the PhD. And very importantly, be honest. It’s not always easy to address areas where they need to improve (e.g., writing, communication). You are the mentor, and they are here to learn from you. There is nothing better than telling it like it is, so they know what they need to do to address areas that will lead to professional success. Better to hear it from someone who cares.

... Encourage, build confidence and be honest. Building confidence is a key to success. Confidence in their training, experience and expertise will help in facing the challenges in the upcoming “real world” as a professional.

INS CAREER MENTORING AWARD

Jacinta Douglas, PhD (Brisbane)

Biographical Details

Dr. Jacinta Douglas has qualifications in the disciplines of speech pathology and clinical neuropsychology. She has extensive research and clinical experience in rehabilitation of adults with acquired brain injury. Jacinta's research interests involve evidence-based practice, cognitive-communication disorders and living well with acquired brain injury. Her work focuses on measurement of perceived social communication deficits (the La Trobe Communication Questionnaire), coping with communication breakdown, self concept following acquired brain injury and community inclusion of people with brain injury. Jacinta is the Summer Foundation Research Chair (Living Well with Brain Injury) and leads the theme 'Building the evidence base for participation and inclusion' at La Trobe University's Living with Disability Research Centre. Click here to learn more about Dr. Douglas.

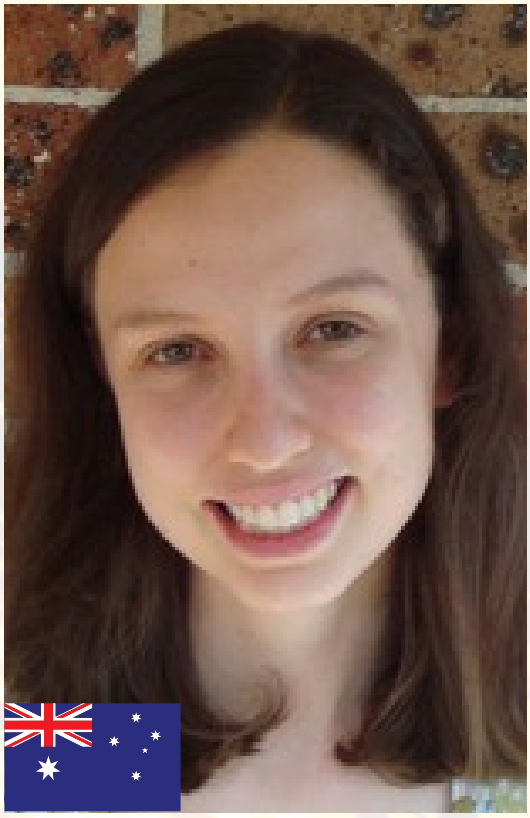
Jacinta Douglas, PhD
(Australia)

POST DOCTORAL FELLOW AWARD

Rachael Rietdijk, PhD (Brisbane)

Dr. Rietdijk, can you provide a brief summary of your INS award winning work?

My post-doctoral research has involved working with our ABI Communication Lab team at the University of Sydney, with a focus on the development and piloting of the Social Brain Toolkit. The Social Brain Toolkit is a suite of new online resources to support more positive communication after an acquired brain injury. The Toolkit includes interact-ABI-lity, which is a short self-guided course for communication partners about how to have more successful interactions with people with acquired brain injury. Our pilot study showed preliminary evidence of improving communication partners' knowledge and confidence in how to communicate well with people with ABI, and we have had close to 5000 registrations internationally since the course was made publicly available. The course continues to be available for anyone to access for free here.



Rachael Rietdijk, PhD
(Australia)

What are the future directions of your current research program?

Our team has recently received funding through the Australian Medical Research Future Fund (Traumatic Brain Injury Mission) to develop and pilot a new model of delivery of the Social Brain Toolkit, involving student speech pathologists and peer mentors with TBI. We will be co-designing this new model with a particular interest in how this model could enhance engagement, upskill the future health workforce in TBI, and effectively support people with TBI in regional and rural contexts, as well as from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Australia. It will be exciting to pilot this new student clinic during 2026 and 2027 and discover whether this new model effectively supports people with TBI to more readily access evidence-based communication skills interventions.

PHOTO/CANVA

PROGRAM AWARDS

Sallie Baxendale, PhD, INS Memory & Memory Disorders Research Award (Brisbane)

Dr.Baxendale, can you provide a brief summary of your INS award-winning work?

Memory Change in Epilepsy: What Do Typical Trajectories Look Like? “Will my memory get worse?” is one of the most common questions patients ask during neuropsychological assessment. Traditionally, clinicians have relied on Helmstaedter & Elger’s (2009) landmark cross-sectional study of more than 1,100 people with temporal lobe epilepsy (TLE). That work showed that while the rate of age-related decline in verbal learning mirrors that of healthy controls, people with TLE experience developmental hindrance. They start from a lower peak, begin to decline earlier, and therefore reach clinically significant impairment at a younger age.

Sallie Baxendale, PhD
(England)

PHOTO/CANVA

PROGRAM AWARDS

Sallie Baxendale, PhD, INS Memory & Memory Disorders Research Award

However, group averages only tell part of the story. In clinical practice, we often see wide variation in individual trajectories. To better understand these patterns, we analysed a cohort of more than 2,000 people with focal epilepsy. Our findings highlight the impact of several key factors:

- Sex: Females show less developmental hindrance than men, and maintain function for longer meaning they reach impairment approximately 10 years later than males.
- Seizure focus: People with extra-temporal epilepsy maintain post-developmental function longer than those with TLE, but once decline sets in, the slope is steeper.
- Underlying pathology: Also plays a significant role in shaping decline trajectories.

Why is this important? For clinicians, having a sense of the “typical” trajectory is essential. It allows us to distinguish expected change from accelerated decline that may warrant further investigation or intervention. The work we presented at the INS conference is just one piece of a larger programme. Over the next three years, we aim to map cognitive trajectories across multiple domains in a large cohort of people with epilepsy, with a focus on identifying both risk factors for accelerated decline and potential protective factors.

When I reflect on my development as a neuropsychologist, it’s hard to point to a single individual. Instead, what has shaped me most has been the generosity, openness, and collaboration of the wider epilepsy neuropsychology community. From the beginning of my career, I’ve benefited from being part of a field where ideas, resources, and experiences are shared so freely, and where colleagues are genuinely committed to advancing both the science and the clinical care of people with epilepsy.

The International Neuropsychological Society (INS) has also been a major influence. The annual meetings provide a unique space to hear about cutting-edge research, connect with colleagues from around the world, and engage in the kind of cross-pollination of ideas that keeps our work evolving. Each conference has left me with new insights, new collaborations, and new questions to pursue. In many ways, my growth has been shaped less by individual mentorship and more by this collective culture of curiosity, support, and collaboration. The epilepsy neuropsychology community and INS have provided the models of rigour, collegiality, and innovation that I aspire to in my own work.

...what has shaped me most has been the generosity, openness, and collaboration of the wider epilepsy neuropsychology community.

PROGRAM AWARDS

Kelsey Thomas, PhD, INS Memory & Memory Disorders Research Award (New Orleans)

Brief Biographical Details

Kelsey Thomas, PhD
(USA)

Dr. Kelsey Thomas is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at UC San Diego School of Medicine and a Research Health Scientist at VA San Diego. She completed her doctoral training at University of Florida and completed her predoctoral internship and postdoctoral fellowship at VA San Diego/UCSD. Together with Dr. Katherine Bangen, they run the Neuropsychology of Vascular Aging and Alzheimer's (NOVAA) Lab. Dr. Thomas's research focuses on the preclinical and prodromal phases of Alzheimer's disease and vascular cognitive impairment and understanding the best approaches for capturing subtle cognitive declines.

She integrates biological markers (e.g., plasma, PET, CSF, MRI) of Alzheimer's disease, vascular disease, and neurodegeneration into her work to better understand possible mechanisms of subtle cognitive changes.
Dr. Thomas studies early cognitive changes associated with diabetes and other vascular risks as well as sociocultural factors that impact cognitive aging outcomes. Her research is funded by NIH/NIA, Department of Veterans Affairs Clinical Services Research and Development, and the Alzheimer's Association. Click here to know more about Dr. Thomas.

PROGRAM AWARDS

Laura Fenton, INS Graduate Student Research Award (New Orleans)

I am currently on clinical internship at UCSF which will transition into a 2 year postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Kaitlin Casaletto at the UCSF Memory and Aging Center.

Laura Fenton
(USA)

What are the future directions of your current research program?

My current research program within Dr. Kaitlin Casaletto's lab at the UCSF Memory and Aging Center is focused on investigating relationships between modifiable lifestyle factors (e.g., physical activity and sleep) and brain aging. For example, my INS project leverages objectively measured physical activity and sleep data to examine whether specific combinations of these behaviors may offer neuroprotective benefits in older adults. The overarching aim of my research is to generate precise, targeted lifestyle recommendations that can support the brain health of aging populations.

What are the future directions of your current research program?

I feel incredibly fortunate to have trained under mentors who have shaped both my scientific and clinical development as a neuropsychologist. My PhD advisors, Dr. Judy Pa and Dr. Duke Han, modeled how to pursue science with rigor and excellence while also embracing balance, and emphasized the importance of engaging with the broader community. At UCLA, my practicum supervisor Dr. Kathleen Tingus modeled how to care for the whole person and reminded me that even on the busiest days, humor and humanity belong in the clinic. In my current role at UCSF, I am grateful to be learning from Dr. Joel Kramer and Dr. Kaitlin Casaletto, whose mentorship encourages me to think critically, approach questions with curiosity and humility, and continually refine my observational skills.

PROGRAM AWARDS

Alyxandra Cazanis, INS Graduate Student Research Award (Brisbane)

Alyxandra, can you provide brief summary of your INS award winning work?

Alyxandra Cazanis
(Australia)

I am incredibly grateful to have received the INS Graduate Student Research Award for my qualitative comparison study which explores whether the lived experiences of cyberscam victims with and without an acquired brain injury differ. Analysis indicates that people with and without acquired brain injury share many of the same vulnerabilities and experiences of cyberscam victimisation. However, victim-survivors with acquired brain injury are particularly vulnerable and disproportionately affected due to injury-related social and cognitive factors. Notably, victim-survivors with acquired brain injury were often subject to increased blame and technological and/or financial restrictions as a consequence of their victimisation.

This study forms the first component of my doctoral research, which seeks to develop and evaluate a disability-informed scam response resource, which can be used by frontline services (e.g., banking staff and police personnel) to better support people with cognitive disability and the general community. It is part of a broader initiative called the CyberAbility Project, aimed at enhancing Cyberscam prevention, detection and response.

PHOTO/CANVA

PROGRAM AWARDS

Marnie Drake, INS Pediatric Research Award (Brisbane)

Marnie, can you provide brief summary of your INS award winning work?

Marnie Drake
(Australia)

This work forms part of larger project where we are aiming to improve information-provision during the hospital-to-school transition for families and educators supporting children with acquired brain injury (ABI) as they return to school following hospitalisation. A piece of this puzzle was understanding the current return to school pathways for children, mapping how information is communicated and shared between different members of the process. We used collaborative process mapping methodology to visualise and identify key avenues, barriers, and facilitators for implementation of a professional development resource, TeachABI-Australia, which we hope to embed within these transition pathways to ensure educators are equipped with the knowledge they need to confidently support their students returning to the classroom post-ABI.

What are the future directions of your current research program?

The next steps from here, excitedly we are currently wrapping up an effectiveness-implementation trial of the professional development resource- TeachABI-Australia - within the identified hospital-to-school transition pathway within our local statewide Victorian Paedatric Rehabilitation Service. This project was supported by the Transport Accident Commission in Victoria, where we are collecting feedback from parents and educators supporting the return-to-school of a student with ABI to understand their experiences using and implementing the resource. Following these findings, we will be developing a formal implementation plan to introduce TeachABI-Australia into clinical care pathways within our service.

PHOTO/CANVA

SLC RESEARCH AWARD

Nicholas Cheng (Brisbane)

The prevalence of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder in psychotic disorders: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Nicholas, can you provide a brief summary of your submitted abstract?

My abstract is special because it highlights the complex overlap between ADHD and psychotic disorders—an area that's often overlooked in clinical practice. These conditions are diagnostically challenging, and symptoms can easily be missed or misunderstood. By showing how prevalence varies depending on diagnostic criteria, geography, and the age of onset of psychosis, the study emphasises that there's no one-size-fits-all approach. Importantly, it encourages clinicians to reflect on their own practice: how our values, assumptions, and even unconscious biases might influence diagnosis and treatment decisions. I hope it sparks thoughtful consideration of the nuanced, context-dependent nature of mental health care.

Nicholas Cheng
(Australia)

Where did you get the inspiration to apply for the travel grant?

I was inspired by a desire to bring more focus on mental health and neurodivergence into a field that often focuses more on 'physical' brain conditions or cognitive deficits. Psychiatry and mental health are sometimes underrepresented at neuropsychology conferences, so I wanted to share research that highlights complex psychiatric comorbidities and the real-world challenges clinicians face. The travel grant gave me the chance to contribute this perspective to the broader neuropsychology community.

PHOTO/CANVA

SLC RESEARCH AWARD

Jai Carmichael (Brisbane)

Psychological and Cognitive Correlates of Suicidal Ideation Following Traumatic Brain Injury

Jai, can you provide a brief summary of your submitted abstract?

Jai Carmichael
(Australia)

While psychiatric conditions such as depression and anxiety are well-established predictors of suicidal ideation after traumatic brain injury (TBI), the influence of other psychological and cognitive factors is less well understood. In our study of 106 individuals with moderate-to-severe TBI, suicidal thoughts were associated with difficulties with emotion regulation (including lability and detachment), use of unhelpful coping strategies such as avoidance, low resilience, and self-reported cognitive concerns. Follow-up analyses indicated that most of these associations were accounted for by co-occurring symptoms of depression and anxiety. Objective cognitive test performance was not directly related to suicidal ideation, though worse performance on some measures was associated with greater emotional distress, which in turn was linked to suicidal thoughts.

These findings highlight the potential importance of emotional regulation, coping style, and resilience not only as markers of suicide risk but also as intervention targets in clinical care following TBI. Further research is required to better clarify the contribution of cognitive profiles to suicidality in this population.

What are the future directions of your current research program?

My research program, based at the Monash-Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre in Melbourne, Australia, focuses on the emotional and other neuropsychiatric consequences of acquired brain injury (ABI), with particular emphasis on moderate-to-severe traumatic brain injury. Currently, my work has two main directions. First, together with my colleagues, we are co-developing a comprehensive measure of mental health symptoms designed specifically for individuals with ABI. We are about to start cognitive interviews with brain injury survivors before moving on to validation and norming of the measure. Second, we are co-developing resources to support people with ABI who experience suicidality or non-suicidal self-injury, as well as their families and professionals who work with them. This project is in the scoping phase, with interviews underway and stakeholder surveys to soon follow. Those interested in either research stream or in potential collaborations are welcome to contact me at jai.carmichael@monash.edu.

SLC RESEARCH AWARD

Morgan Shaeffer (New Orleans)

Morgan, can you provide Provide a brief summary of your INS award winning work?

Morgan Shaeffer
(Canada)

My project examined the interactive effects of pulmonary function and systemic inflammatory biomarkers (interleukin-6 [IL-6] and C-reactive [CRP]) on neurocognitive functioning over time in older adults. An understanding of the interactive effects of inflammatory markers and pulmonary function on neurocognition is crucial to identifying targets for intervention and prevention of neurocognitive decline. We utilized data from 2254 older adult participants from the Rush Memory and Aging Project (MAP). We found that while lower pulmonary function and higher levels of inflammatory markers were predictive of lower neurocognitive ability over time (as expected and reported in previous literature), we also saw that preserved pulmonary function was protective against neurocognitive decline, even in the presence of high inflammatory markers.

These findings underscore the importance of monitoring and treating inflammation in older adults, particularly those with lower pulmonary function, to prevent or reduce neurocognitive decline.

What are the future directions of your current research program?

I am a PhD level graduate student in the Behavioural Research on Aging and Illness (BRAIN) laboratory (PI: Theone Paterson, PhD, R.Psych) at the University of Victoria. We are currently conducting several studies related to aging and chronic illness, exploring risk and resilience factors for cognitive health. My current (dissertation) research is investigating the effects of cannabis use on quality of life and various health outcomes (physical functioning, psychosocial functioning, neurocognition) in middle- and older-aged Canadian adults experiencing chronic pain. I plan to continue investigating the possible impacts of cannabis and other substance use on cognitive, physical, and psychosocial health outcomes in aging adults. To learn more about the exciting work happening in the BRAIN Lab @ UVic, visit our website.

PHOTO/CANVA

SLC RESEARCH AWARD

Hannah McGlashan (Brisbane)

Group psychosocial interventions following acquired brain injury: A systematic review and meta-analysis of group process and outcomes

Hannah, can you provide a brief summary of your submitted abstract?

My research examined the effectiveness of group-based psychosocial interventions for adults with ABI. Through a systematic review and meta-analysis of 65 studies, I evaluated their impact on outcomes including depression, anxiety, quality of life, and community integration. Findings indicated a small but significant benefit, with neurorehabilitation psychology approaches, particularly cognitive behavioural therapy, showing the strongest effects. Despite widespread recognition of the importance of group processes, very few studies measured them directly, highlighting an important gap in the evidence base. This work provides the first comprehensive synthesis of both the efficacy and mechanisms of group psychosocial interventions in ABI rehabilitation.

Hannah McGlashan
(Australia)

What are the future directions of your current research program?

Building on these findings, my program of research is focused on adapting and evaluating the feasibility of a group psychosocial intervention (Groups 4 Health) informed by social identity and group process theory for individuals recovering from ABI. I am also involved in the development and application of objective methods to assess group processes in neurorehabilitation, reducing reliance on self-report measures that can be challenging in this population. This work aims to identify the mechanisms that drive therapeutic change and integrate them more deliberately into program design. By strengthening both the evidence base and the theoretical underpinnings of group interventions, my goal is to optimise rehabilitation pathways and enhance long-term recovery outcomes for people with ABI.

Who has influenced your development and success as a neuropsychologist?

My development has been shaped by mentors in both neuropsychology and social psychology. Professor Catherine Haslam, my primary advisor, has been particularly influential in guiding my work on social identity and group-based interventions in brain injury rehabilitation. I have also drawn inspiration from A/Prof Kerryn Pike and A/Prof Dana Wong, whose contributions have advanced the field of group neuropsychological interventions. As a clinician, my practice has been enriched by collaborations with colleagues across the public health system in Brisbane. Most importantly, the determination and engagement of individuals with ABI who have participated in my studies continue to inspire my commitment to producing research with real-world impact.

SLC RESEARCH AWARD

Tamrin Barta (Brisbane)

Key Effective Connectivity Alterations in Depression in Huntington's Disease

Tamrin, can you provide a brief summary of your submitted abstract?

There is very little research trying to understand what is happening in the brain in HD, especially in relation to mental health concerns. We know that depression is really common early on in the disease but we don't know too much about why this might be and if changes in the brain are involved. This research is interesting because it suggests that neural communication is more important than atrophy in the emergence of depression in HD, at the level of the brain.

Tamrin Barta
(Australia)

Where did you get the inspiration to apply for the travel grant?

I saw the opportunity was available when I was submitting my abstract and I thought that I may as well give it a shot. I felt that my research was unique and the financial support would increase my chances of being financially able to attend the conference.

PHOTO/CANVA

SLC RESEARCH AWARD

Megan Bradson (New Orleans)

Megan, can you provide a brief summary of your submitted abstract?

Megan Bradson
(USA)

Digital interventions, such as a self-guided, internet-delivered cognitive behavioral therapy (iCBT) program for depression in people with multiple sclerosis (MS), have the potential to substantially broaden access to evidence-based psychological care. By elucidating characteristics of depression associated with treatment response and non-response to MS-specific iCBT, this research takes an important step towards developing personalized treatment-matching approaches that can optimize outcomes and quality of life for individuals with MS.

Where did you get the inspiration to apply for the travel grant?

I was nominated by the INS SLC and did not apply for the INS SLC Research Award. I am immensely grateful to the INS Student-Liaison Committee for recognizing my research on predictors of risk for non-response to iCBT for people with MS with the INS SLC Research Award. This award helped to reduce the financial burden associated with conference travel, allowing me to engage more fully in the programming and professional development opportunities at the INS Conference.

PHOTO/CANVA

OTHER RECIPIENTS OF INS PROGRAM AWARDS AND SLC RESEARCH AWARD

Hillary Patton
INS SLC Research Award
(USA)

Robert Hickson
INS SLC Research Award
(USA)

Isabelle Avildsen
INS SLC Research Award
(USA)

Nawal Mohamad
Travel Grant Award
(South Africa)

Akshata Sheth
Travel Grant Award
(England)

Leila Nategh
Student Research Award
(Australia)

Rachel Maina
Science Committee
Travel Grant Awards
(Kenya)

Levi Muyela
Science Committee
Travel Grant Awards
(Kenya)

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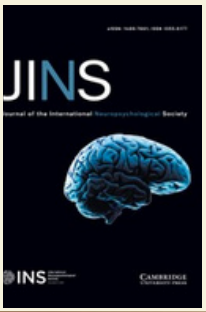

JINS is the official Journal of the International neuropsychological Society with a membership of over 4,700 international members from a variety of disciplines and reaches over 9,000 subscribers Worldwide. JINS publishes empirically-based articles covering all areas of neuropsychology and the interface of neuropsychology with other areas like cognitive neuroscience. JINS is published by Cambridge Press. Below are some **open-access** articles you might want to check out.

Evaluating cognitive performance using cognitive performance using the National Institutes of Health Toolbox Cognitive Battery in children with traumatic brain injury

The NIH TB-CB detects worse cognitive functioning in children with severe TBI six-twelve months post-injury, largely driven by differences in Fluid Cognition. Our findings suggest the NIH TB-CB may be suitable for monitoring cognition in children with TBI. » LEARN MORE

Petersen, B., Vo, N.-T. N., Anton, N., Yeates, K. O., & Treble-Barna, A. (2025). Evaluating cognitive performance using cognitive performance using the National Institutes of Health Toolbox Cognitive Battery in children with traumatic brain injury. Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, 1–10. doi:10.1017/S135561772510146X

The role of age and physical fitness on the relationship between physical activity and executive function

The results highlight potential differential associations with cognition when considering physical activity and physical fitness, and the importance of considering multiple domains of physical fitness in relation to physical activity and cognitive performance. » LEARN MORE

Stauder, M., Horn, O., & Hayes, S. M. (2025). The role of age and physical fitness on the relationship between physical activity and executive function. Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, 1–11. doi:10.1017/S1355617725101446

Subjective versus objective cognition during menopause: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Our findings suggest subjective cognition may be associated with performance on measures of learning efficiency, offering a starting point for further research on menopausal brain fog. The present findings highlight the need for a reliable measure of subjective cognitive symptoms associated with menopause. Additionally, a better characterization of the neuropsychological profile of menopausal brain fog is needed to progress research in this field and ultimately improve clinical support for women experiencing these symptoms. » LEARN MORE

Furey, R. T., Thomas, E. H. X., Kulkarni, J., & Gurvich, C. (2025). Subjective versus objective cognition during menopause: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, 1–19. doi:10.1017/S1355617725101306

Psychological and cognitive correlates of suicidal ideation following traumatic brain injury

The results highlight potential differential associations with cognition when considering physical activity and physical fitness, and the importance of considering multiple domains of physical fitness in relation to physical activity and cognitive performance.

Carmichael, J., Samiotis, A., Andrews, K., Carminati, J.-Y., Johnston, L., Spitz, G., … Ponsford, J. (2025). Psychological and cognitive correlates of suicidal ideation following traumatic brain injury. Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, 1–14. doi:10.1017/S1355617725101471

JINS OPEN-ACCESS

Get a look at the recently published open-access articles from JINS

Videoconference-integrated, computer-assisted cognitive testing improves the remote assessment of processing speed and attention

Oral SDMT and digital Symbol Decoding are strongly correlated with in-person written SDMT. The digital TMT better captures the cognitive demands and performance characteristics of the in-person written form than does oral TMT. Videoconference-integrated digital tasks offer increased standardization and automation in administration and scoring and the potential for rich metadata, making them an attractive area for further development. LEARN MORE

Chapman, J. E., Helmstaedter, C., Abbott, D. F., Pardoe, H. R., Vaughan, D. N., Jackson, G. D., & Tailby, C. (2025). Videoconference-integrated, computer-assisted cognitive testing improves the remote assessment of processing speed and attention. Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, 1–10. doi:10.1017/S1355617725101124

Pre-injury sleep disturbance as a moderator of cognitive functioning in children and adolescents with mild traumatic brain injury

These results suggest that pre-existing sleep disturbances and mTBI are jointly associated with poorer executive functioning post-injury. Interventions to improve sleep might help mitigate the effects of mTBI on children's cognitive functioning. LEARN MORE

Luszawski, C. A., Minich, N. M., Taylor, H. G., Bigler, E. D., Bacevice, A., Bangert, B. A., … Yeates, K. O. (2025). Pre-injury sleep disturbance as a moderator of cognitive functioning in children and adolescents with mild traumatic brain injury. Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, 1–9. doi:10.1017/S1355617725101458

Cardiometabolic risk accounts for associations between personality and cognition in midlife

Overall, FFM personality traits were associated with multiple domains of cognitive performance, which, in the case of executive control, was partially explained by differences in cardiometabolic risk. Future investigations should examine whether these pathways account for longitudinal change in cognition. LEARN MORE

Lesnovskaya, A., Reed, R. G., Stillman, C. M., Flory, J. D., Erickson, K. I., Marsland, A. L., … Manuck, S. B. (2025). Cardiometabolic risk accounts for associations between personality and cognition in midlife. Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society, 1–14. doi:10.1017/S1355617725101288

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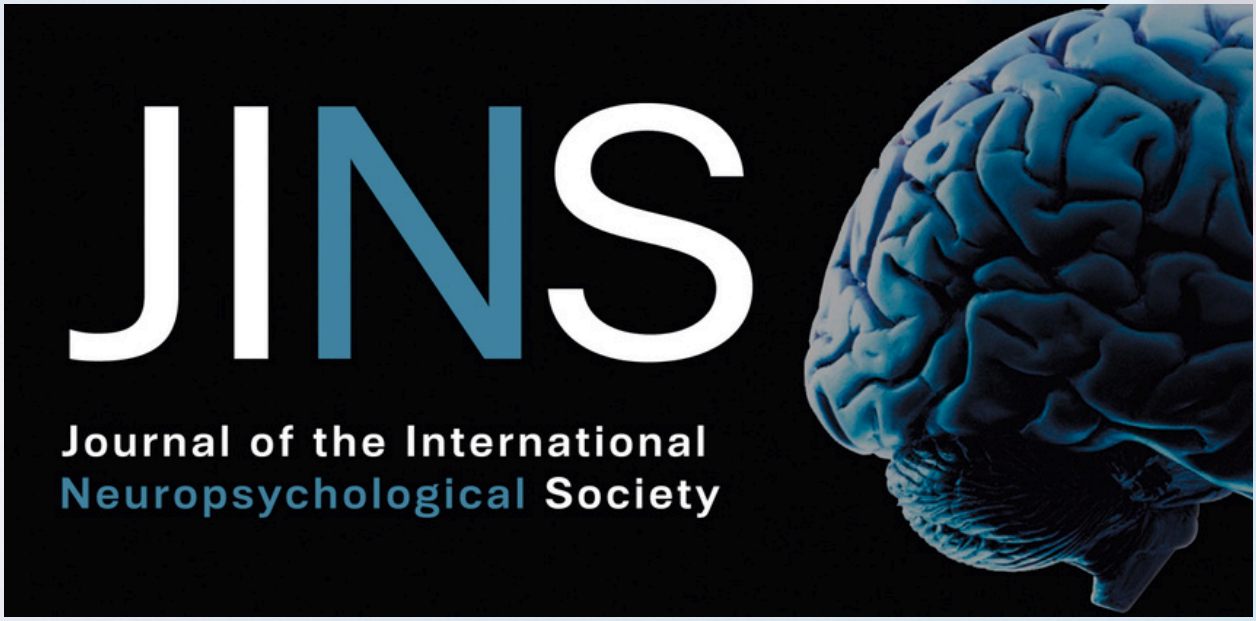

LET'S SYNC UP!

INS Global Engagement Committee RECP

The Research and Editing Consulting Program (RECP) is a program of the INS Global Engagement Committee that is designed to provide English language editing and statistical consulting to international colleagues who wish to publish their research in English language journals.

Anthony Risser, PhD
Research and Editing
Consultant Program Coordinator

We invite neuropsychologists who have a manuscript in development (or who have submitted a manuscript for consideration by a peer-reviewed journal in neuropsychology and need to make required editorial revisions) to contact the RECP for assistance. If you need or would like support in the writing style and structure of your manuscript, we are here to assist. We will try to match the nature of your manuscript and your writing needs with the expertise of one of our volunteer consultants.

We offer this free service to professional colleagues in neuropsychology around the world. If English is not your primary academic language but you want to publish your research in English-language neuropsychology journals, feel free to contact the RECP. You need not be a member of INS to make use of this service, but your manuscript should be specific to a neuropsychological domain. The RECP can also offer suggestions about research design and statistics as part of our services.

If you would like to be put in touch with a consultant who can assist with research design, statistical advice or English language editing, or if you are willing to act as a consultant, please contact Dr. Anthony Risser at arisser@adler.edu

PHOTO/CANVA

INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES FOR ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION

This space from the INS website offers information and resources for assessing and supporting people with known or suspected cognitive difficulties. We invite you to explore these materials and learn more from them. If you have any evidence-based and freely available materials to share, please email Skye McDonald and include the source of evidence.

Tests and Assessment

Neuropsychological adaptation of the International Test Commission (ITC) Guidelines For Translating and Adapting Tests. Members of a workgroup of the INS Cultural SIG have developed a document that presents a neuropsychological application of the International Test Commission (ITC) guidelines for translating and adapting tests. This application of the ITC guidelines aims to provide guidance for neuropsychological test translation, adaptation, and validation of existing tests for use in linguistic and cultural contexts that are different to those for which tests were originally developed, for consideration in the development of new neuropsychological tests, and other means of assessment where applicable. This document is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the International Neuropsychological Society, the Global Engagement Committee or all Cultural neuropsychology Special Interest Group members. CLICK HERE

The Addenbrookes Cognitive Examination- III (ACE III) is a freely available, cognitive screening tool for patients over the age of 50 who are suspected to suffer from dementia. It can be used by health practitioners and researchers and has been translated into a range of different languages. CLICK HERE

ASSBI Resources is a publisher of evidence based assessment and remediation packages. Many of these can be purchased and downloaded from the website. ASSBI Resources is a not-for-profit arm of the Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment. CLICK HERE

Intervention

The Compensatory Cognitive Training has been successful for people with psychiatric symptoms, brain injuries, and other brain-related conditions resulting in cognitive challenges. These manuals use compensatory cognitive training, rather than extensive drills and practice. In other words, they help teach people how to improve their cognitive skills by using strategies, have them practice their strategy use in the real world, and then troubleshoot any difficulties that come up. The goal is to help make these strategies become habits, so they can be used automatically when they are needed in the real world. CLICK HERE

Neurobite is a database that catalogues over 5000 studies of cognitive, behavioural and other treatments for psychological issues arising after acquired brain impairment. It provides an exhaustive catalogue of all studies ever published in English. Studies are rated for their methodological quality and scientific rigour. The website is free and enables you to search for articles which might be relevant for your clinical practice or your research in a time-efficient way. CLICK HERE

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Training

Neuropsychological Assessment and Rehabilitation – Learning Materials. In this resource you will find 15 presentations on the topics of neuropsychological assessment and rehabilitation. They were originally delivered as part of an INS Matthews funded workshop in Thailand in December 2020. CLICK HERE

KnowNeuropsychology – Next Generation Neuropsychology Education. It was created for a team of neuropsychologist and neuropsychology trainees to meet the rapidly evolving needs of our professional community. We support the open and global exchange of scientific knowledge and advancement of neuropsychology as a specialty via equitable access to education. To this end, KnowNeuropsychology contains a library of open access educational lectures spanning a diversity of practice, science, and professional development topics.

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ONLINE CONTINUING EDUCATION

See Upcoming Events of Interest to INS Members

The **International Neuropsychological Society** is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The International Neuropsychological Society maintains responsibility for this program and its content. The International Neuropsychological Society, Inc. is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Psychology as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychologists #PSY-0154.

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STUDENT AND TRAINEE

Trainee Spotlight: Introducing our new SLC committee members

The mission of the INS Student Liaison Committee is to foster the professional development of students of neuropsychological sciences by promoting student contributions to the study of brain-behavioral relationships, addressing the academic and professional needs of students, and encouraging student leadership within the INS. The INS-SLC is a student-run organization which was formed in 2010.

Abigail O'Connell

Second year PhD candidate in the School of Psychology at University College Dublin (UCD)
Mid-Year Meeting Dublin, Ireland
Email: abigail.oconnell2@ucdconnect.ie
Fun fact: Scenes from The Princess Bride and Harry Potter were filmed in my home county in the West of Ireland!

Abigail, what motivated you to join the INS SLC?

I was drawn to join the INS SLC having wanted to partake in neuropsychological events with peers on an international level. From hearing about the training and conferences held by the INS from colleagues, and admiring the research of many of its members, I knew that the SLC would be a good fit for me as an early career researcher.

What do you hope to accomplish during your term? What are you most excited about?

I hope to encourage further engagement between students and professionals in the field of neuropsychology, and to foster an open, diverse network of researchers. I am most excited about welcoming members of the INS to Ireland at the Dublin 2026 mid-year meeting!

Shivani Rajeshree

MPhil Rehabilitation Psychology trainee at NIEPID, India
Global Engagement Representative Secunderabad, India
Email: shivanirajeshree@gmail.com
Fun fact: I enjoy slacklining in my free time

Shivani, what do you hope to accomplish during your term? What are you most excited about?

I am most excited about promoting training and fostering collaboration between students across the globe. I look forward to greater inclusion of trainees especially from low- and middle-income countries and hope to create opportunities and provide a platform for international trainees to exchange ideas, knowledge and collaborate for research.

What are some INS SLC initiatives or resources you'd love to see developed for trainees?

Some resources I think that would be really helpful and would love to work towards developing is a database of not just global educational opportunities but also for research and funding.

STUDENT AND TRAINEE

Trainee Spotlight: Introducing our new SLC committee members

Rachel Munyard

Third year PhD candidate at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia
Global Engagement Representative, Melbourne, Australia
Email: rachel.munyard1@monash.edu

Fun fact: I've travelled to every continent in the world except for Antarctica! This has given me a big passion for global outreach and connection, as I believe we can learn so much from each other.

Rachel, what motivated you to join the INS SLC?

During my PhD research where I am exploring international clinician practice of cognitive rehabilitation, I became so inspired by each of the clinicians I spoke to across the world from various regions and cultures. This made me want to work in this space more, to advocate for the advancement of student inclusion and engagement, and to help improve global equity in the neuropsychology space.

What do you hope to accomplish during your term? What are you most excited about?

Something I am really interested in is understanding the barriers that trainees and students face in seeking training and opportunities in neuropsychology research and practice. During my term, I hope to be able to explore this more, as understanding the challenges in student training globally can help us to better find solutions. I'm excited to see what my term as Global Engagement Representative brings and am always open to hear from trainees.

Nicole Eng

First year PhD student at Marquette University
Member at Large
Email: nicole.eng@marquette.edu
Fun fact: I served as a Field Artillery Officer in the U.S. Army for 4 years.

Nicole, what do you hope to accomplish during your term? What are you most excited about?

Leveraging my background as a Veteran, I hope to bring a unique and valuable perspective to the Student Liaison Committee and advocate for the needs of students and trainees in the neuropsychological community. I am especially excited about the opportunity to learn from and collaborate with fellow passionate individuals to enhance and expand international trainee initiatives.

What do you hope to accomplish during your term? What are you most excited about?

I would love to see the development of resources that outline available neuropsychology training programs across different regions, as well as resources that provide tips on how to manage stress and avoid burnout throughout training and early career.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Social Media to stay connected

The Social Media Committee (SMC) of the INS strives to promote and magnify the INS as well as its global membership through the use of social media applications such as Twitter (@INSneuro), Instagram (@INSNeuro), Linkedin, Bluesky (@insneuro.bsky.social) and Facebook (search for International Neuropsychological Society).

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