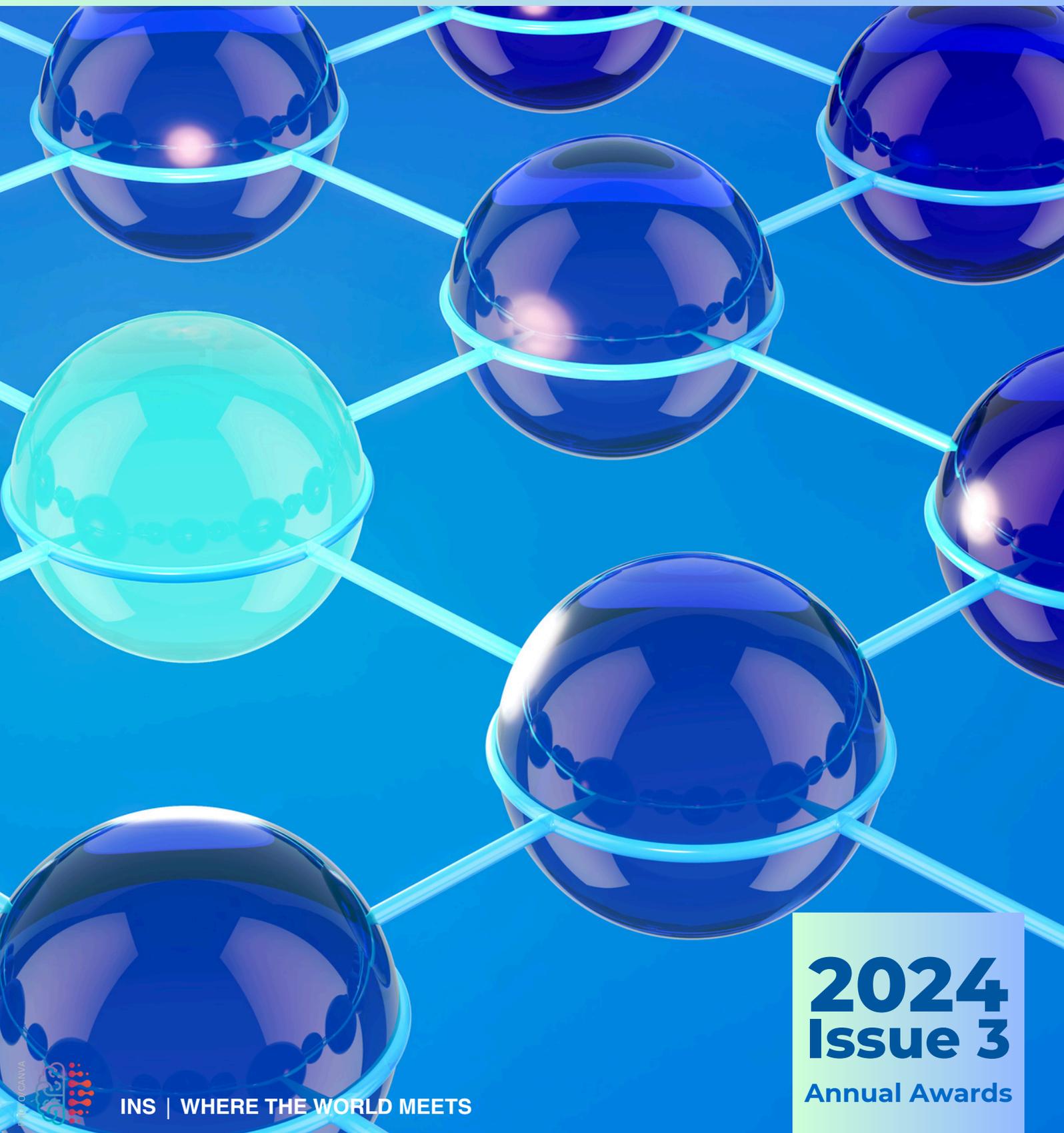


INS News

A PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



2024
Issue 3
Annual Awards

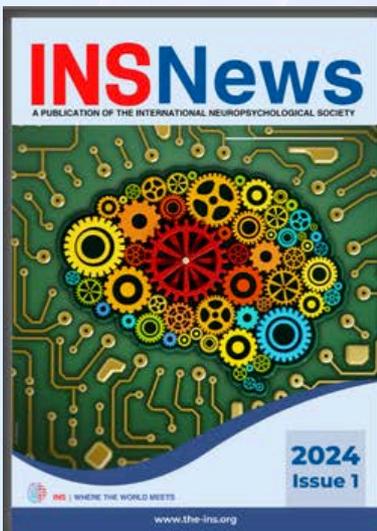
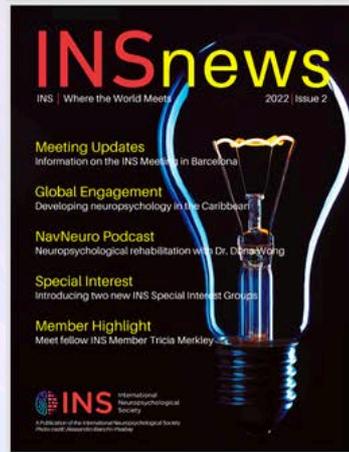
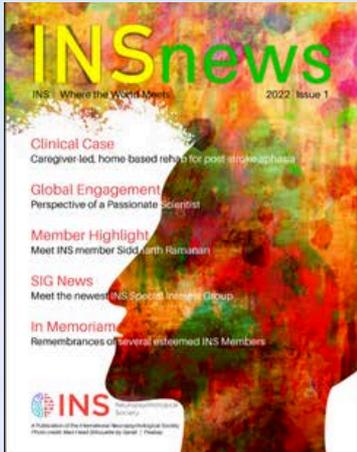
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INS NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES

Published Newsletters from 2022-2024





THE INS NEWSLETTER TEAM



Greetings!

In this issue, we proudly highlight again the remarkable success and achievements of our neuropsychology students, trainees, and colleagues, whose dedication continues to advance our field. I am deeply grateful for the ongoing support from our global neuropsychology readers. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the INS newsletter team and INS Administration for their tireless efforts and commitment to excellence. I also want to thank each of you for your ongoing readership and support. As we continue to discover the brain's secrets, I am confident that the breakthroughs we make along the way will not only deepen our understanding but also bring hope and healing to countless lives. Maraming Salamat!

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



Maxine Krengel, PhD
Clinical



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



Sarah Prieto, PhD
NavNeuro



John Bellone, PhD
Navneuro

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Society
Founded in 1967



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Student and Trainee



Christine Mullen, PsyD
INS Membership Engagement
Committee 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.

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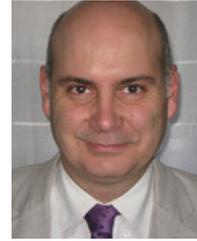
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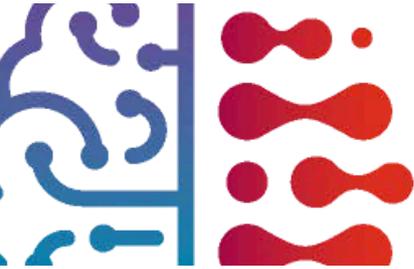
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INS

International
Neuropsychological
Society

Founded in 1967

The International Neuropsychological Society (INS) was founded in 1967 as a scientific and educational organization dedicated to enhancing communication among the scientific disciplines which contribute to the understanding of brain-behavior relationships. The Society currently has more than more than 3100 members throughout the world and from various areas of practice.

The mission of the International Neuropsychological Society is to promote the international and interdisciplinary study of brain-behavioral relationships throughout the lifespan. The Society's emphasis is on science, education, and the applications of scientific knowledge.

Membership in the Society includes an online subscription to the Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society: JINS, which is currently published ten times per year (with two additional, online-only supplements). The Society holds two meetings each year, including its Annual Meeting every February in North America, and its Mid-Year Meeting every July in a different location worldwide.



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INS PRESIDENT'S CORNER

INS President's Message

The INS President's Corner offers the most recent updates on our society's initiatives, upcoming events, and the vision that guides our global neuropsychology community forward. Gain insights from **Dr. David Loring**, the current president of the INS as he expresses his commitment to our shared mission of advancing neuropsychology and as he shares his deepest gratitude for the incredible journey he has shared with us over the past year.



David Loring, PhD

INS President

One of the standout moments was **António and Hanna Damásio's** presentation on consciousness, along with **Amina Abubakar's** insightful talk on infectious diseases of poverty and **Monica Rosselli's** exploration of cultural influences on dementia diagnosis—both of which were exceptional. However, for me, the highlight was the INS Global Ambassador Award presented to **Barbara Wilson**. A giant in brain injury rehabilitation, Barbara was appointed an OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) in recognition of her vast contributions to rehabilitation. Her distinguished career in neuropsychology and her active involvement in the INS truly exemplifies the spirit of the Global Ambassador Award. Congratulations, Barbara! ➔

I hope this message finds you well. It continues to be busy year for the INS, but I'd like to pause and share a few updates.

Global Neuropsychology Congress

The Global Neuropsychology Congress (GNC) held this July in Porto was a tremendous success, offering a uniquely enriching scientific and professional experience. With great effort and enthusiasm, the GNC co-chairs (**Edward de Haan, Sara Cavaco, Vicki Anderson**) organized this initial collaboration between the International Neuropsychological Society (INS) and its GNC partners: the Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment (ASSBI), the Federation of European Societies of Neuropsychology (FESN), and the Sociedad Latinoamericana de Neuropsicología (SLAN).



The photo shows Barbara Wilson (right) receiving the INS Global Ambassador Award from David Loring (left).



INS PRESIDENT'S CORNER

INS President's Message



David Loring (Left), Katrin Seheer (Middle) from the World Health Organization (WHO) Brain Health Unit and Natalia Ojeda del Pozo (right)

The GNC was a unique forum for the four GNC societies to engage with **Katrin Seheer** from the World Health Organization (WHO) Brain Health Unit, which is dedicated to the prevention and care of neurological disorders. Partnering with the WHO to shape policies for improving global brain health offers a unique and exciting opportunity to advance neuropsychological education, intervention, and research to address brain health disparities. All four GNC societies have agreed to pursue more formal collaborative initiatives to achieve these goals, and I am thrilled that INS will be partnering in fostering this collaboration.

Charles Matthews Fund

The Matthews Fund, dedicated to advancing neuropsychology worldwide with a special focus on under-resourced countries, received applications spanning the globe, representing Argentina, Egypt/Australia, Greece, India, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Panama, Peru, and the US/India. Additionally, we had two collaborative applications: one from researchers across six African countries (Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritius, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), and another from investigators representing the Philippines, India, and Bangladesh. The diversity in applications represents the success of the Matthews Fund to engage and promote neuropsychology internationally. **Donations** to the Matthews Fund are always greatly appreciated, helping to sustain and advance this important INS initiative.

We are excited to support three exceptional recipients: **Kevin Thomas**, who will lead an in-person workshop for core members of the African Neuropsychology Network; **Leticia Vivas**, who will explore the effectiveness of web-based stimulation for Spanish-speaking patients with mild cognitive impairment (MCI); and **Mohamed Taiebine**, who will examine the linguistic and psychometric properties of the Moroccan Arabic Comprehensive Aphasia Test. Congratulations to all, and thank you for your outstanding contributions in advancing the goals of the Matthews Fund! ➔



INS PRESIDENT'S CORNER

INS President's Message

New Orleans 2025

We're excited about our 2025 North American Meeting, with **Vonetta Dotson** and **Jessica Fish** serving as our Program chairs in New Orleans. The program will center around the theme, "*Translational Science for Brain Health Equity*." New Orleans, known for its vibrant multicultural heritage, offers a fantastic setting with exceptional cuisine and diverse music traditions. Keynote sessions and invited symposia include topics such as midlife brain health and health disparities, new diagnostic criteria and treatments for Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia, services for individuals with sensory impairment, and implementation science.

I've begun working on my presidential address, and borrowing from Jacob Cohen, I have tentatively titled my presentation "*The Earth is Round ($p < .05$): But What Would Bonferroni Say?*" In it, I will discuss the risks and harms in both clinical and research contexts of false positives and false negative neuropsychological inference when relying solely on fixed criteria (You can view my GNC presidential address, which highlights the historical misuse of "intelligence" testing, [here](#)).

Following the success of our 2024 NYC meeting, we are excited to bring back the "*Meet Your Member at Large*" event. This informal gathering offers a great opportunity to expand your professional network. Join us next to the registration desk from 8:00 to 10:00 AM on Thursday, February 13th, where attendees can connect with board members to discuss various professional matters large and small.

We hope that our programming will inspire and equip attendees to promote brain health and brain health equity across the lifespan in their research and practice. Reflecting the meeting theme, the INS will be offering a free 3-hour CE sponsored by the Cultural SIG entitled "Do's and Don'ts of Multicultural Neuropsychological Practice in Different Settings." This CE workshop will be offered on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, from 9 am-12 pm.

In conclusion, I'd like to express my gratitude to the INS members for the many contributions you made throughout the year, which helped sustain INS as a vibrant clinical, educational, and scientific society.



I look forward to seeing many of you in New Orleans!



PHOTOCANVA





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.

Dear Colleagues,

I am thrilled to introduce the distinguished recipients of the 2024 INS Awards! This year has been particularly special, highlighted by the exceptional New York Meeting and the Global Neuropsychology Congress in Porto, Portugal. The New York Meeting was one of the largest congresses ever held in the United States, while the Global Congress in Porto represented a historic milestone, uniting neuropsychological societies from around the world. Each society had the honor of selecting a Global Ambassador—an outstanding neuropsychologist who has made a profound impact in promoting the field, fostering international collaboration, and advocating for the importance of neuropsychological practices. Our society proudly named Barbara Wilson as the INS Global Ambassador. There is no one more deserving of this recognition than Barbara.

Barbara has been an inspiring leader, motivating and mentoring countless professionals, while also helping teams and services worldwide to advance neuropsychological rehabilitation. Her life's work has undoubtedly improved the quality of care for countless individuals, who now receive better, more effective interventions as a result of her tireless efforts.



Christian Salas, PhD

Last year, I mentioned in this Newsletter that a task force had been assembled to revise our Awards and explore new ways to make them more representative and aligned with the strategic goals of INS. During the New York Meeting, this task force—comprised of **Shawn McClintock**, **Sanne Schagen**, **Lana Harder**, and myself—presented 14 recommendations to the Board of Directors. Of these, eight were well-received and approved, while the remaining proposals are still under discussion. I am excited to share some of the changes that will be implemented in the coming years, which I believe will bring great benefits to our society. Here are my top three highlights: 



PHOTOCANVA



ANNUAL AWARDS COMMITTEE

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

- **Postdoctoral Award:** Previously managed by the program chairs and selected through abstract submissions to our meetings, this award will now become a major award administered by our committee. This shift allows us to extend significant recognition to early-career researchers, acknowledging young colleagues who are contributing innovative knowledge to our discipline at the outset of their careers.
- **Uniform Benefits and Requirements for Major Awards: All major awards—Early Career, Mid-Career, Lifetime Awards for Research/Education/Service, Mentoring, and Distinguished**—will now receive similar monetary and travel benefits, along with a required presentation at our meetings. This change is more significant than it may seem. It ensures that awards recognizing contributions beyond research are celebrated at our meetings. This underscores the idea that advancing our discipline involves not only groundbreaking research but also passing down knowledge and experiences to new generations (Mentoring Award, Lifetime Education), as well as honoring and learning from the life stories of those who have made profound contributions to the field (Distinguished Career Award).
- **Guidance for Nominations:** The Awards Committee will now provide clearer guidance on how to write nomination and supporting letters by creating standardized templates. This initiative will help level the playing field, particularly for nominations from regions where an "award culture" is less prevalent, and such recognitions are not as common. These templates will make it easier for nominators to craft strong, effective submissions. We will develop templates in different languages and also provide assistance with translating nomination and supporting letters.

In the coming years, you'll be hearing more from me, as my term as Chair of the Awards Committee has been extended to oversee the implementation of these initiatives. If you have any ideas or suggestions, I warmly encourage you to reach out—your input is always welcome.

Un abrazo desde Chile! 💡





IN MEMORIAM

In remembrance of Dr. Marcel Kinsbourne

In memoriam section of the INS Newsletter is a tribute to a cherished and beloved colleague in the field of neuropsychology who has left us recently. Here, we take a moment to pay our respects and remember their lives. This issue features a written tribute by Dr. Deborah Fein, in memory of Dr. Marcel Kinsbourne.

Dr. Marcel Kinsbourne, an eminent, highly distinguished pediatric neurologist and cognitive neuroscientist, died on April 21, 2024 at the age of 92. He made fundamental and far reaching contributions to the fields of neurology, psychiatry, psychology and neuropsychology. Dr. Kinsbourne was born in Vienna in 1931. When he was eight years old, he and his parents escaped to England, fleeing the Nazis four days before the border was closed. He received his B.A., M.A., and Doctor of Medicine degrees at Oxford University. Following this, he completed his training and worked in the US at Duke University Hospital, the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and the University of Toronto. He moved to Massachusetts in 1980, where he was Director of the Behavioral Neurology Research Division at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center. He held academic positions, among others, at Harvard Medical School, Boston University, Brandeis University and Tufts University, and was co-chair of the Psychology Department at the New School in NY.



Marcel Kinsbourne, MD

Dr. Kinsbourne was a President of INS, as well as the Society for Philosophy and Psychology. He published numerous books and hundreds of scholarly articles and served on the Editorial Board of numerous journals. Dr. Kinsbourne discovered two pediatric diseases, one named for him (Kinsbourne Syndrome or Dancing-Eyes Dancing Feet) and one he named for a former mentor (Sandifer Syndrome).

Dr. Kinsbourne made fundamental contributions not only to medicine, but to neuropsychology, many of which are insufficiently recognized as his contribution. For example, he pioneered the use of dual task paradigms, which are so ubiquitous now, hypothesizing that the closer cerebral areas or network nodes were that were essential to two tasks, the more interference there would be. It is not possible to single out other landmark papers because there were so many, of which some were original data papers while some posited strikingly original and brilliant theoretical contributions. [▶](#)



IN MEMORIAM

In remembrance of Dr. Marcel Kinsbourne

Just to name a few areas in which his contributions were seminal: with his close friend, the late **Daniel Dennett**, he wrote on the neurological basis of consciousness, rejecting the popular idea of the “Cartesian theatre”, and positing that

“To regard consciousness as arising from brain activity by some esoteric transformation is misconceived..... A representation anywhere in the forebrain could on one occasion enter consciousness and on another remain outside it, depending on whether it is, perhaps by temporal coherence of discharge of cell assemblies, integrated into the dominant focus”.

Dr. Kinsbourne wrote the only coherent and well-supported theory of why the nervous system in vertebrates, including mammals, is decussated; this was published in 2013 in *Neuropsychology*. Another original idea was that contrary to the general viewpoint, he held that single modality areas of the cortex (e.g. visual cortex) are not less evolutionarily developed but are more highly developed, with cross-modal areas that respond to multiple types of inputs being seen in animals with less developed higher cognitive functions. His strikingly original thinking is seen in many papers, including much-cited papers on semantic memory and state-dependent learning, and was evident in many stimulating conversations that could change one’s thinking in the blink of an eye (one colleague was describing to him a child referred to them as having ADHD, but seeming to the colleague as having a personality disorder, to which Marcel responded “ADHD is a personality disorder.”) Relatedly, he defined a new subtype of ADHD, that of the overfocussed individual, which led to theoretical contributions on the nature of autism. His view of lateralized attention was not the rather static classical view of each hemisphere preferentially attending to the opposite side of space but of each hemisphere driving attention toward the contralateral space in a dynamic and interactive fashion, leading to unilateral lesions having a continuum of possible neglect manifestations.

Marcel was not only an original, profound, and knowledgeable intellect, but a loving and generous family man and mentor, with a wonderful sense of humor. He loved talking to graduate and medical students and postdoctoral fellows who took any opportunity to question him eagerly about difficult clinical and theoretical issues. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Caroline; and a proud father to his seven children, **David, Daniel, Jeremy, Emily, Isabelle, Madeleine, and Charlotte**, and his 11 grandchildren. He is intensely missed not only by his family, but by his friends, colleagues, and trainees. We are grateful to have benefited from his brilliance and knowledge and his influence on our field will only grow as new generations are acquainted with his work.





2024 CHARLES MATTHEWS FUND RECIPIENTS

Global Engagement Committee

The (GEC) had three Matthews Fund streams: Educational, Research and Clinical. We had a very positive response, receiving 15 submissions, which is an increase of 4 additional applications this year compared to last year. All 15 submissions were reviewed (5 more than last year). We received applications from Argentina, Egypt/Australia, Greece, India, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Panama, Peru, US/India. And two joint applications; one from investigators representing 6 countries in Africa (e.g., Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritius, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) and another from investigators representing the Philippines, India, and Bangladesh. A total of 9 independent reviewers from the GEC participated in the review process. Each reviewer evaluated all the applications in a given category; below are the awardees by category for the Board's consideration.

EDUCATIONAL TRAINING AWARDEES

The Educational Training Awardee (5 applications submitted for review)



- Name of awardee: **Prof. Kevin Thomas**
- Awardee's institution/organization: University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Country of awardees: Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritius, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe
- Title of project: The first in-person workshop of core members of The African Neuropsychology Network (ANN)
- Amount awarded: \$5,000 (submitted budget: 4,987.48)

RESEARCH FUNDING AWARDEES

The Research Funding Awardee (7 applications submitted for review)



- Name of awardee: **Leticia Vivas, PhD**
- Awardee's institution/organization: Basic and Applied Psychology and Technology Institute (IPSIBAT), National Scientific and Technological Research Council (CONICET) and National University of Mar del Plata, Argentina (UNMDP)
- Country of awardee: Argentina
- Title of project: Feasibility, acceptability, and preliminary efficacy study of a web-based cognitive stimulation laboratory for Spanish-speaking individuals with mild cognitive impairment (MCI)
- Amount awarded: \$2,500.00

CLINICAL FUNDING AWARDEES

The Clinical Funding Awardee (3 applications submitted for review)



- Name of awardee: **Mohamed Taiebine, PhD**
- Awardee's institution/organization: EuroMed University of Fez
- Country of awardee: Morocco
- Title of project: The Moroccan Arabic Comprehensive Aphasia Test: Linguistic and Psychometric Properties
- Amount awarded: \$2,500 



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.

The call for applications for these three funds will open in late October and the deadline for applications is **December 16, 2024**. This is a change to prior years, however, with this change comes more opportunities for applicants to be highlighted at the February meetings when awardees will be announced. Click this [link](#) to learn more.



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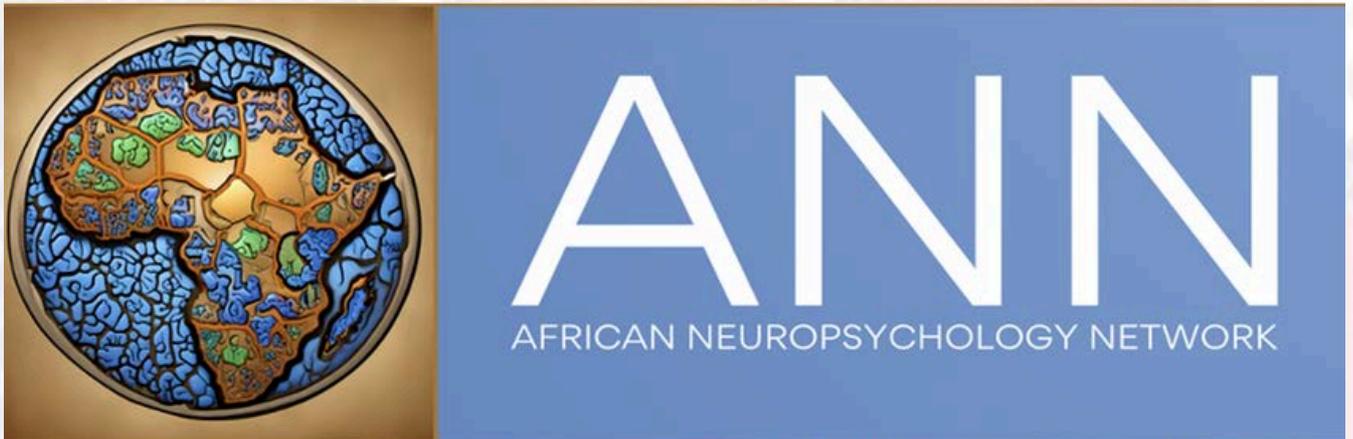




GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Neuropsychology in Africa

The Global Engagement section of the newsletter is devoted to the most recent advancements and progress in neuropsychological development across the globe. Let's discover neuropsychology in Africa.



Pictured are the core members of the ANN: Top row (L-R) Bjorn Christ, Jean Ikanga, Noorjehan Joosub, Lisa Kalungwana-Mambe, Debra Machando, Lingani Mbakile-Mahlanza Progress Njomboro. Bottom row (L-R) Winnie Nkoana, Nicole Phillips, Leigh Schrieff-Brown (co-chair), Kevin Thomas (co-chair), Ridwana Timol, Kaylee van Wyhe, Sizwe Zondo

The African Neuropsychology Network (ANN) was established in April 2023 and is led by a group of neuropsychologists and neuroscientists who work in African academic institutes. This emerging entity is the first International Neuropsychological Society (INS) Global Engagement Committee (GEC) (pilot) network. The ANN's vision is to use intellectual resources from within Africa to further its core mission of developing, networking, transforming, and mobilizing neuropsychology in clinical, research, and academic settings across Africa. [➤](#)





GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Neuropsychology in Africa

This mission is informed by two major challenges: slow progress in the development of neuropsychology across Africa, and the high burden of neurological disease facing the continent. Regarding the former, Kissani and Naji (2020, p. 4) comment:

“As a recognized practice, neuropsychology has a slow development on the African continent compared to other continents. It remains the last continent to expand the field of neuropsychology, with many African countries still lacking a high-quality education system. Furthermore, the prominence of both traditional culture and traditional healing practices could potentially block the access and development of a neuropsychological assessment. Few articles describe the progress of neuropsychology, and the role of the neuropsychologist in many African countries remains poorly defined. There are no specific criteria or qualifications required for professional practice. South Africa is a notable exception, however, as neuropsychology is well developed and neuropsychologists fulfil (sic) roles more compatible with Western countries’ standards. Postgraduate programs in neuropsychology can also be pursued at a number of universities”.



Regarding the latter, rates of neurological disease in Africa are reportedly double those in high-income countries (Nervous System Disorders Collaborators (2024)). Moreover, Global Burden of Disease (GBD) studies report steadily increasing morbidity rates as a function of steadily decreasing mortality rates. This significant rise in the global burden of a disease means there is an urgent need for neuropsychological services to manage the associated cognitive, behavioral, and emotional sequelae. In Africa, the need for such services is not met because of a lack of high-quality training programs and socioeconomic barriers blocking not only the development of such programs but also the access of patients to existing healthcare initiatives.

The ANN is co-chaired by **Professor. Kevin G. F. Thomas** (University of Pretoria, South Africa) and **Associate Professor Leigh Schrieff-Brown** (University of Cape Town, South Africa). Other core members include GEC representatives for Africa (see Table 1). Currently, all core members work at institutions in sub-Saharan Africa, but one of our primary aims is to ensure broader representation so that more African countries and educational institutions are involved. ➤



GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Neuropsychology in Africa

Another of our primary aims is to foster a culture of connectivity and collaboration in neuropsychology across academic institutions and related educational settings in Africa. Currently, many neuropsychological services on the continent operate in silos. This aim aligns with INS goals (especially those fostered by the GEC) of growing and promoting neuropsychology in areas where it is least developed and most needed. Since we recognize the shortage of neuropsychologists in Africa, we want to build capacity and enhance training opportunities for neuropsychologists and allied professionals. Such efforts could also include creating platforms for mentorships, hosting workshops, webinars, and conferences, that seek to address challenges faced within the African context.

We recognize the importance of creating a space where members can share experiences, and obstacles and even offer advice on best practices. Building an inclusive community means providing a platform for peer support and collective problem solving as neuropsychology/allied professionals tend to face unique challenges, such as limited resources, lack of locally valid test materials, geographic isolation, and so forth.

Our aims around education and training in neuropsychology could also include educating non-neuropsychologists in allied healthcare and other positions. Such efforts could help with referral pathways. For example, such educational strategies could include basic knowledge, understanding and identification of TBI, and other major neurological complications. ➔

Table 1.
Core Members of the ANN and Countries Currently Represented within the Network

Member Name	Country of Residence	Academic Affiliation
Bjorn Christ	South Africa	Department of Psychology, University of Cape Town
Jean Ikanga *	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Emory University School of Medicine
Noorjehan Joosub	South Africa	Department of Psychology, University of Johannesburg
Lisa Kalungwana-Mambe	Zambia	Department of Psychology, University of Zambia
Debra Machando	Zimbabwe	Behavioural Science Department of Psychiatry, University of Zimbabwe
Lingani Mbakile-Mahlanza *	Botswana	Department of Psychology, University of Botswana
Progress Njomboro	South Africa	Department of Psychology, University of Cape Town
Winnie Nkoana	South Africa	Department of Psychology, University of the Witwatersrand
Nicole Phillips	South Africa	Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, University of Cape Town
Leigh Schrieff-Brown *	South Africa	Department of Psychology, University of Cape Town
Kevin Thomas	South Africa	Faculty of Humanities, University of Pretoria
Ridwana Timol	Mauritius	Curtin University
Kaylee van Wyhe	South Africa	Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Stellenbosch University
Sizwe Zondo	South Africa	Department of Psychology, Rhodes University

Note. * INS GEC representative.



GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Neuropsychology in Africa

We recently took one of the first major steps toward achieving these aims. The ANN received an INS Charles G. Matthews Fund award (Educational stream) for 2024. Funds from this award will be used to host an in-person workshop for all core ANN members. This workshop will facilitate the consolidation of the network in terms of defining more clearly its vision, mission statement, and goals. Workshop activities will also be aimed at planning the network's next steps in terms of aligning with INS goals and developing, networking, transforming, and mobilizing neuropsychology in academia and other educational settings.

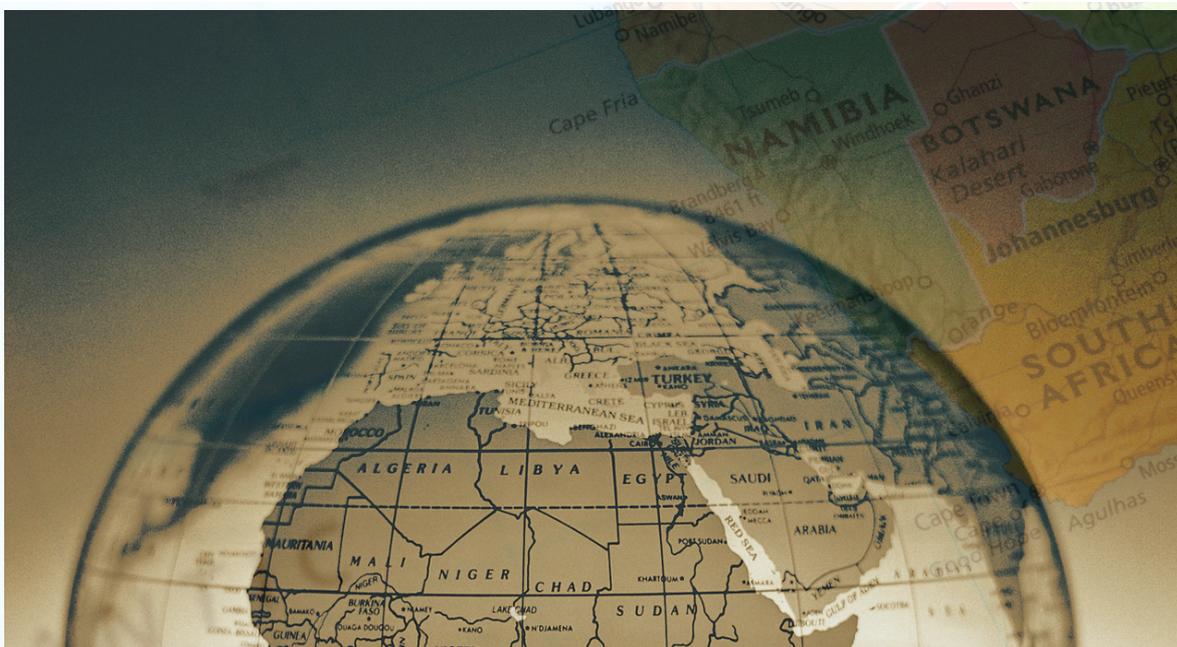
The ANN is open to recruiting members from all African countries and to partnering with other networks/groups/consortia with whom aims to align. Please contact us (email: africanneuropsychologynetwork@gmail.com) to get involved. 🌍

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LOYOLA/UPT

Please Have Exact Fare
Or RTA Pass Ready



LISTEN IN: NAVNEURO PODCAST

Perioperative Cognitive Decline in Older Adults with Dr. Catherine Price

Sarah Prieto, PhD, Butler Hospital & Dept. of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, Brown University, Providence, RI, USA

John Bellone, PhD, ABPP, NavNeuro Co-Creator & Co-Host, Kaiser Permanente, San Bernardino, CA, USA

Ryan Van Patten, PhD, ABPP, NavNeuro Co-Creator & Co-Host, Providence VAMC & Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, Brown University, Providence, RI, USA

Navigating Neuropsychology (NavNeuro) is an INS-partnered podcast series that includes conversations with experts in neuropsychology about cutting-edge scientific findings, debates within the field, and the latest in assessment and intervention. You can listen to NavNeuro episodes online or anywhere you listen to podcasts. Be sure to follow us on Twitter ([@NavNeuro](https://twitter.com/NavNeuro)) and let us know what you think!

‘Perioperative neurocognitive disorders’ is an umbrella term referring to cognitive impairment detected during the period around a surgical operation. In a recent episode of the Navigating Neuropsychology podcast, **Drs. Ryan Van Patten and John Bellone** spoke with **Dr. Catherine Price**, a board-certified clinical neuropsychologist from the University of Florida, about her expertise in the field of perioperative cognitive decline. Dr. Price explained that “the surgery experience and the various changes that can happen during that surgery and that perioperative realm is...associated with cognitive changes at least out to one year, and it varies based on the patient demographics.”

Approximately 30-40% of people experience a decline in cognitive functioning of 1 to 2 standard deviations by the time they are discharged following surgery. While most people begin to show improvement in their cognitive abilities, a subset face persistent cognitive difficulties that may last up to a year or longer. Key predisposing risk factors for perioperative cognitive decline include older age, lower educational attainment, use of anticholinergic medications, and physical frailty. Dr. Price emphasized the importance of assessing these factors, stating “When I see patients..., I go through all of those aspects as a predisposing risk factor, and it's important to make sure that we flag individuals who have a number of those predisposing risk factors, so that the anesthesiology teams can consider that and potentially alter their approach.”



Catherine Price, PhD

The conversation delved into the pathophysiological mechanisms underlying cognitive impairment post-surgery, such as systemic inflammation, activation of the HPA axis, and the potential impact of anesthetics on brain health. In particular, the depth of anesthesia can be measured using tools like the Bispectral Index (BIS) monitor, which provides a score from 0 to 100 to indicate level of consciousness. Though there is significant individual variability, research has suggested that individuals with low BIS scores may face higher risk of postoperative cognitive decline. ➤



LISTEN IN: NAVNEURO PODCAST

Perioperative Cognitive Decline in Older Adults with Dr. Catherine Price

The conversation also shifted to the valuable role of neuropsychologists in providing expertise on brain-behavior relationships to support individuals undergoing surgical procedures. Dr. Price referenced research by Dr. Franchesca Arias, noting that individuals with cognitive impairment are more likely to encounter difficulties with bowel preparation prior to colonoscopies. The discussion highlighted the importance of assessing cognitive functioning before surgery, as pre-existing cognitive impairment is a significant predictor of postoperative complications and can hinder patients' adherence to medical and pharmacological regimens during recovery.

Dr. Price proposed implementing “neuro check” screeners to evaluate individuals’ cognitive functioning prior to receiving surgery, aiming to identify patients who may require further assessment by a neuropsychologist. She explained, “there are hospitals and programs that have what's called a preoperative or pre-surgical center. Those are when patients who have certain risk profiles are sent to a preoperative anesthesia team, and they are seen, ideally, two weeks to a month before the surgery, so that the team can get an idea of that person's risk factors, and then they can optimize those patients before they have the surgical procedure for better outcomes.”

Dr. Price shared aspects of her professional journey in examining perioperative cognitive decline, emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in developing interventions aimed at mitigating the risk of delirium and reducing long-term cognitive decline.

She shared insights from her successful interactions with interdisciplinary teams consisting of neuropsychologists, neurologists, geriatricians, anesthesiologists, physical therapists, and occupational therapists, all of whom contribute to a comprehensive understanding of a patient’s intraoperative experience and preoperative functioning. The conversation also emphasized the potential benefits of preoperative physical activity and cognitive training exercises in enhancing surgical outcomes and preventing postoperative cognitive dysfunction.

Dr. Price’s Navigating Neuropsychology episode was released on August 1st, 2024. 

CE credits are available for select episodes. Click to listen to the NavNeuro Podcast on any of the following:



pre-existing cognitive impairment is a significant predictor of postoperative complications and can hinder patients' adherence to medical and pharmacological regimens during recovery.



INS MEETING 2025 IN NEW ORLEANS

Save the Date for the 2025 INS Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA



Vonetta Dotson, PhD
Program Co-Chair



Jessica Fish, PhD
Program Co-Chair

We are thrilled to return to New Orleans for the first time since 2017! This wonderfully diverse and resilient city provides an ideal setting for our conference themes. We look forward to an inspiring scientific program and hope you will join us to experience the rich array of offerings in food, culture, and the arts that make New Orleans such a unique city! Please bookmark this page for additional meeting highlights over the upcoming months!

Over the past decade, public interest in brain health has surged. Concurrently, neuropsychology research and practice have broadened their scope to not only address brain-based disorders and understand healthy cognitive functioning, but also promote brain health. This involves optimizing brain functioning across cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and motor domains in both healthy and clinical populations. This broader perspective redefines the role of neuropsychologists, emphasizing prevention, quality of life, and overall well-being, thus enhancing our impact worldwide. Neuropsychology has a responsibility to ensure that this impact is felt equitably across all individuals and communities. It has long been recognized that social determinants affect brain health, with some communities facing higher risks for negative brain health outcomes and greater obstacles to quality healthcare and behaviors that support brain health. Now, it is imperative to move beyond merely acknowledging these inequities and actively work to reduce them.



LEARN MORE





INS ELECTION RESULTS

INS Newly Elected Board of Directors

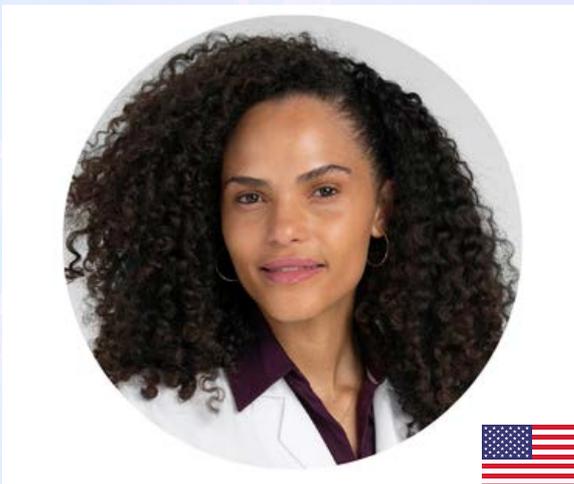
The International Neuropsychological Society (INS) is pleased to announce the newest members of its esteemed board. As a society committed to advancing the understanding of brain-behavior relationships, we are honored to have these distinguished individuals join us in our mission to promote science, education, and the applications of scientific knowledge within the global neuropsychology community! Their term will start at the close of the NOLA 2025 meeting.



Mary Kosmidis
President Elect



Paul Bangirana
Non-North American Member At Large



Anny Reyes
Early Career Member At Large



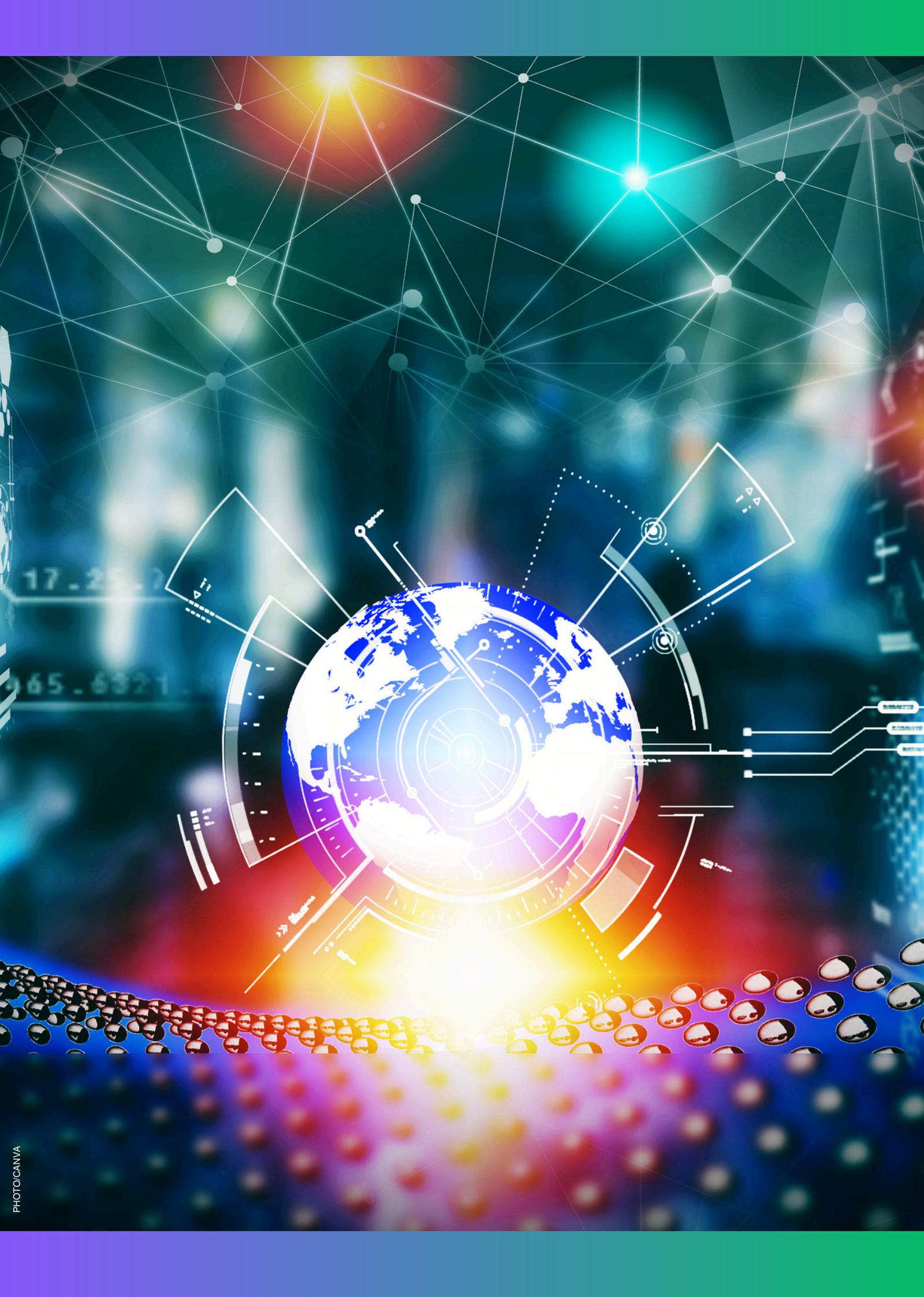
Tricia Williams
North American Member At Large



INS

International
Neuropsychological
Society

Founded in 1967





INS GLOBAL AMBASSADOR AWARD

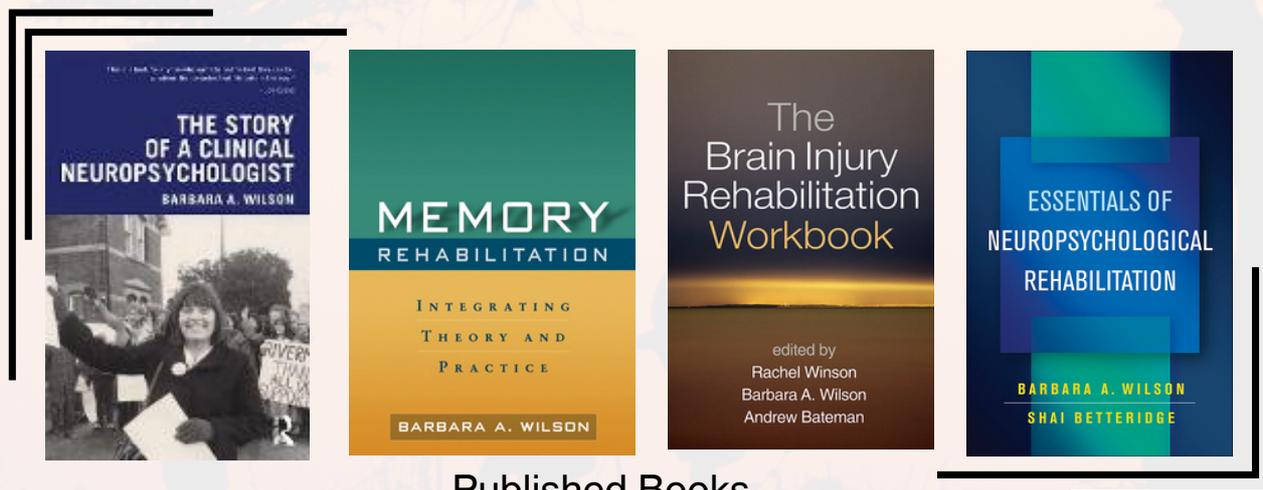
Barbara Wilson, PhD

Dr. Barbara Wilson is a clinical neuropsychologist who has worked in brain injury rehabilitation for 45 years. She has published 35 books, 204 peer-reviewed papers, 125 chapters, and 8 neuropsychological tests. She has won many awards for her work including an OBE from the then Queen in 1998, for services to rehabilitation; five-lifetime achievement awards, including one from the NHS 70 year anniversary parliamentary awards where she was a regional champion for the Midlands and East Region. In 2011 she received the Ramon Y Cahal award from the International Neuropsychiatric Association.



Barbara Wilson, PhD

In 2014 she received an honorary degree from The University of Cordoba, Argentina. Also in 2014 she received the M.B. Shapiro award from The Division of Clinical Psychology (affiliated to The British Psychological Society) for Distinguished Contributions to Clinical Psychology. In 2019 she received the annual award from the Spanish Clinical Neuropsychological Society. For many years she was editor of the journal “Neuropsychological Rehabilitation” which she founded in 1991 and in 1996 she established the Oliver Zangwill Centre for Neuropsychological Rehabilitation. A rehabilitation centre in Quito, Ecuador is named after her. The Division of Neuropsychology named a prize after her, the ‘Barbara Wilson prize for distinguished contributions to neuropsychology’. She is a Fellow of The British Psychological Society, The Academy of Medical Sciences and The Academy of Social Sciences. She is honorary professor at the Universities of Hong Kong, Sydney, East Anglia and Fernando Pessoa University, Porto, Portugal. She has held 30 research grants. Her work has resulted in changes in clinical practice. For example, as a result of a randomised control trial evaluating a paging system to improve the everyday functioning of people with memory and planning problems, the local health authority set this up as a health care system for people throughout the United Kingdom. 💡



Published Books



INS DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

George Prigatano, PhD, Barrow Neurological Institute, Arizona

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

My professional career has many rewards associated with it. Perhaps I am most proud of being the Founding Chairman of the Department of Clinical Neuropsychology at the Barrow Neurological Institute which I began in 1985. I am also very happy (and proud) that my work on impaired self-awareness after various brain disorders appears to have influenced the field of neuropsychological rehabilitation and assessment. Finally, it has been very rewarding for me to see many junior neuropsychology colleagues show an interest in the psychotherapy of persons with brain disorders.



George Prigatano, PhD

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

Three talks greatly influenced my desire to work in neuropsychology and neuropsychological rehabilitation. The first was a lecture by **Ralph Reitan**, in 1972, who made the point that clinical neuropsychologists often do not know what constitutes “normal” brain functioning at different stages in the life span because of the great variability of individuals’ higher integrative brain functions. Normative data helps but is not a substitute for clinical experience. The second was a lecture by **Donald Hebb** who made the point that psychology (neuropsychology included) was the scientific study of the mind and mind was an expression of the integrative activity of the entire brain. He went on to say that psychology, as a scientific discipline, was limited in helping people know “how to live well and wisely.” The third was a lecture by **Yehuda Ben-Yishay** who demonstrated that he could help brain dysfunctional patients return to a productive lifestyle without falsely promising he could substantially improve their neuropsychological functions. These lectures inspired me, but the topic of neuropsychology is so innately interesting, that I can’t imagine working in any other field. ➤



...topic of neuropsychology is so innately interesting, that I can’t imagine working in any other field.



INS DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

George Prigatano, PhD

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

In your professional work, follow your instincts as to what is most interesting to you. Keep a recorder of important clinical observations that are often not adequately discussed in classical textbooks in neuropsychology. Strive to understand those phenomena no matter where the paths lead. Don't worry about publishing. Focus on writing about what is important to you. Try to combine your clinical work with research that helps you become a better clinician. It will continue to inspire you and bring you in contact with many interesting people.

What is the future of the field of neuropsychology?

I don't know what the future of neuropsychology is as a field, but if it stays relevant to improving the quality of lives of patients it will continue to thrive. 💡



PHOTO/CANVA



INS EARLY CAREER AWARD

Kaitlin Casaletto, PhD, University of California, San Francisco

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

My research program seeks to identify the behavioral and biological drivers of cognitive resilience during aging. Cognitive resilience is a naturally occurring phenomenon; over 90% of older adult brains harbor significant neuropathology, yet only a minority of older adults manifest cognitive impairment in life. We hypothesize there are common biological systems, pathways, and even individual molecules that underlie the capacity to outperform age-related brain diseases that may be applicable across neurodegenerative etiologies. Our studies combine deep characterization of lifestyle behaviors including digital health tools, neurobehavior, and specimen biomarker quantification (CSF, plasma, brain tissue) to address these questions. We leverage a particular lens towards sex differences, modifiable risk, and translational study designs to identify targets of resilient aging.



Kaitlin Casaletto, PhD

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

My advice to the next generation of neuropsychologists is to follow your curiosity and find your people. Find the activities in research, clinic, and beyond that keep you reading, thinking, and asking questions. If the work keeps you stimulated, you will likely be good at it. This will change over your career, listen to that change. Ultimately, our work is only possible through the people we interact with and relationships we build. Select your team of colleagues and collaborators to be the people you want to shape your own thoughts, ideas, and brain. And enjoy the journey, careers are a marathon! 💡

“ **Select your team of colleagues and collaborators to be the people you want to shape your own thoughts, ideas, and brain.** ”

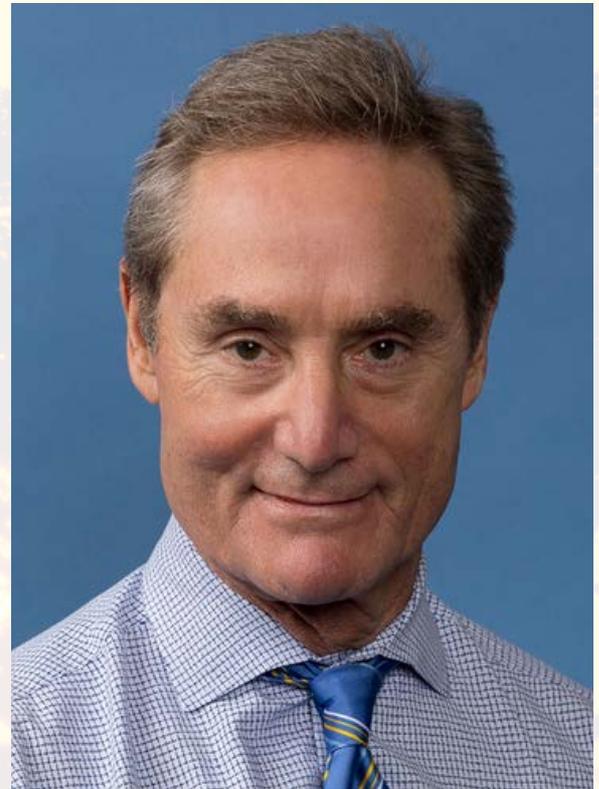


INS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT FOR RESEARCH AWARD

Robert Bilder, PhD, University of California Los Angeles

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

I think the greatest rewards have come from effort that others found useful. Great joy has come from working with trainees in neuropsychology (clinical and research) who sometimes seemed to benefit from hearing idiosyncratic hypotheses and saw the whole patient beyond the test scores. Some of our teams' science findings also have had some traction. My personal favorites (despite often less traction) have involved how brain systems balance stability and flexibility, including our "edge of chaos" ideas about creativity and a few other findings that ran counter to prevailing opinions in the field. For examples: that symptoms in schizophrenia are more than just "positive" and "negative"; that anterior hippocampal volumes in schizophrenia may relate more to "executive" and "motor" functions than to "memory" functions; and that "Big C" creativity appears more linked to a more random (albeit less efficient) global connectivity pattern.



Robert Bilder, PhD

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

Someone once told me the only trait that would predict sticking with an academic career was a "burning desire to know." At UCLA, we revised our benchmark competencies to include "curiosity." I think these characteristics are the only drivers that can survive in the face of repeated failures (e.g., This experiment didn't work! This grant application was not even reviewed! This manuscript was rejected!). So I believe the motivation has to be there even if one accomplishes nothing. ➤



PHOTO/CANVA



INS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT FOR RESEARCH AWARD

Robert Bilder, PhD, University of California Los Angeles

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

Challenge dogma. Remember the cortex is just the icing on the cake of the central nervous system, even though 90% of our books and training focus on that thin layer of cells, which account for only 10% of human experience (percentages here are 100% fictional). Have fun figuring out how the brain may really work, under the assumption that at this point, we are very much still in the dark.

What is the future of the field of neuropsychology?

I think we need to work now on defining what is “uniquely human” about neuropsychology, because machines will (and in my opinion, should) take over most algorithmic and operational aspects of analysis and interpretation. The good old neuropsychological examination will be replaced by continuous monitoring of our behavior and brain functions by other devices and the internet of things. I hope that as we are freed from routine clerical and cognitive tasks, we can increase our understanding of our patients and sharing of our knowledge with patients, families and society. 💡

“Have fun figuring out how the brain may really work, under the assumption that at this point, we are very much still in the dark.”



PHOTOCANVA

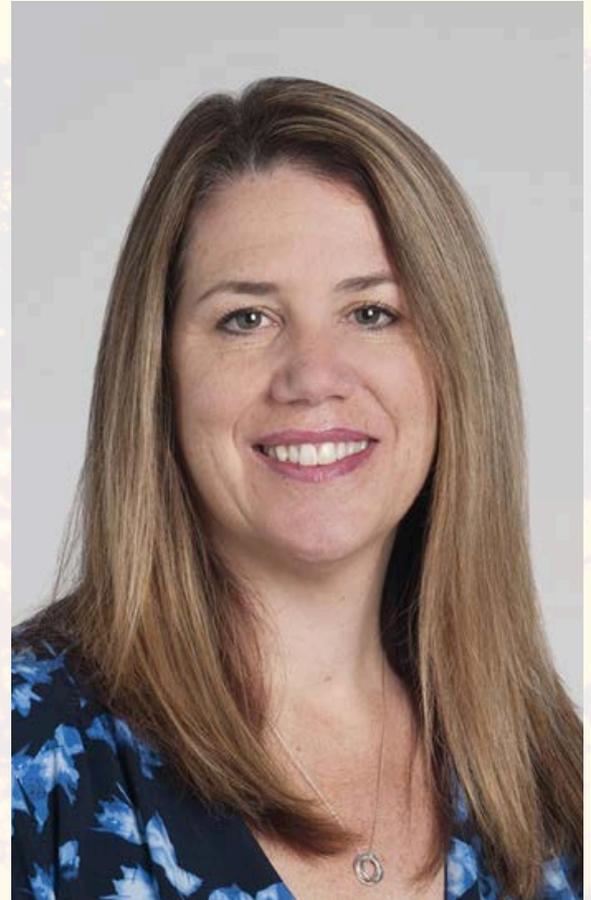


INS MID CAREER AWARD

Robyn Busch, PhD, Cleveland Clinic

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

Cognitive impairment is a major comorbidity of the epilepsies that often negatively impacts patient functioning and quality of life. Historically, epilepsy neuropsychological research has followed the classic paradigm, examining cognitive impairments in relation to core characteristics of the disorder (e.g., syndrome, etiology, seizure frequency/severity). However, substantial challenges to this paradigm have accumulated over the years, highlighting considerable patient heterogeneity in cognitive outcomes, even in seemingly homogenous epilepsy syndromes like mesial temporal lobe epilepsy (TLE). My research seeks to identify genetic and environmental contributors to cognitive dysfunction in TLE that account for some of the 'missing variance' in cognitive outcomes, to develop methods for consolidating known cognitive risk factors to aid neuropsychologists in predicting cognitive outcomes following surgical intervention for the treatment of TLE, and to promote neuropsychological research in epilepsy at a global level to accelerate discovery and progress in this field. >



Robyn Busch, PhD





INS MID CAREER AWARD

Robyn Busch, PhD, Cleveland Clinic

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

It is important for young investigators to understand that there are many different roads to success as a clinical researcher, and they are very rarely direct or linear. There are likely to be many starts, stops, curves, and detours along the way. To best prepare yourself for your research journey, consider these 5 important tips:

- 1) Find Good Mentors:** Regardless of the stage of your career, the role of mentors is critically important in steering your interests and contributing to your growth as a researcher. Consider developing a mentoring “team” that extends beyond your primary scientific mentor to help support your career in other important ways (e.g., anchor, motivator, sponsor) and don’t be afraid to approach the leaders in your field of study, even if they are outside your institution.
- 2) Choose Your Collaborators Wisely:** Sometimes the most innovative ideas come from partnerships across unconventional avenues, but be judicious in choosing your collaborators; make sure the study and the partner align with your goals. The best scientific collaborators will have the same ambition as you, contribute equally to the work, and be fun to work with (Pedersen, 2022).
- 3) Don’t Let Failure Stop You:** In research, some failure is inevitable, so you have to be prepared for rejection and learn to have a thick skin. Try to think of failures as the stairs you have to climb to reach success, and remain steadfast in your pursuits. Failure often leads to new thoughts and ideas and can take you in unexpected and exciting directions you may not have otherwise gone.
- 4) Remember The 3 P’s of Success:** Passion, Persistence, Patience: If you are pursuing a career in research, you already have passion. Persistence and patience can be more challenging, but these are skills you can practice and improve over time. Be sure to set specific goals for yourself, have realistic expectations re: timelines and outcomes, try to find lessons in setbacks or apparent failures, and celebrate the small milestones along the way.
- 5) Have Fun!** While research requires a lot of hard work, it can also be extremely rewarding and fun. Pursue the topics you are most passionate about, and enjoy the journey. 💡



It is important for young investigators to understand that there are many different roads to success as a clinical researcher, and they are very rarely direct or linear.

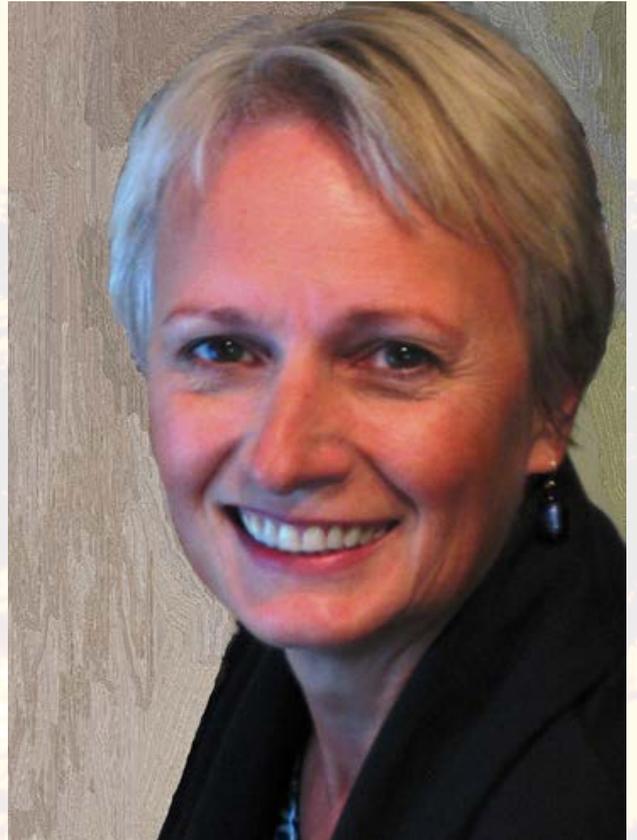


INS CAREER MENTORING AWARD

Yana Suchy, PhD, University of Utah

My research is in the area of neuropsychology, with a particular focus on executive functions. Executive functions refer to a set of abilities that allow us to choose the most appropriate behaviors given different contexts, to plan ahead and follow through with our plans, and to avoid acting on impulses. In other words, it is our intact and mature executive functioning that makes it possible for us to avoid behaviors that are typical of babies and young children, such as grabbing someone else's food when hungry, crying when frustrated, or purposelessly wondering around when looking for something we have lost.

Many neurologic populations, such as patients with certain types of dementia, stroke, or serious brain injury, can have profound impairments in executive functioning. 🧠💡



Yana Suchy, PhD

MORE INFO





POST DOCTORAL RESEARCH AWARD

Blake Gimbel, PhD, University of Minnesota

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

Neurodevelopmental conditions are distinct but also share overlapping etiological mechanisms and common neuropsychological endpoints. Novel psychometric methods for examining structural brain anomalies may provide new insights into both shared and distinct aspects of atypical brain development across neurodevelopmental conditions. In this work, we demonstrate the value of leveraging a novel method for quantifying brain volume anomalies using recently published brain “growth charts” based on large numbers of individuals. Providing an example using data from a sample of youth with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD), we found that youth with FASD demonstrated smaller norm-adjusted brain volumes compared to typically-developing controls. We also found that brain volumes were associated with neurobehavioral function, suggesting these metrics may be useful predictors of important clinical outcomes.



Blake Gimbel, PhD

Lastly, we demonstrated norm-adjusted brain volumes were more sensitive than commonly-used assessments such as physical measurements of head size in differentiating youth with neurodevelopmental conditions like FASD from typically-developing controls. These findings highlight the value of leveraging brain “growth charts” to better understand neurodevelopmental conditions, with important implications for studying a wide range of pediatric and adult populations.

What are the future directions of your current research program?

As an incoming Pediatric Neuropsychologist and Assistant Professor at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and The Ohio State University, I’m establishing a program of research aimed at understanding and supporting brain development in children with a range of neurodevelopmental and congenital conditions. Building on research I started during my fellowship at the University of Minnesota, I’m currently conducting a study examining the use of a novel web-based neuropsychological assessment tool for identifying cognitive and behavioral impairments in children with prenatal alcohol exposure and FASD with the goal of improving clinical care and increasing access to services for more individuals. [➤](#)



POST DOCTORAL RESEARCH AWARD

Blake Gimbel, PhD, University of Minnesota

My work also continues to explore novel tools from neuroimaging and psychometrics to characterize structural brain anomalies in youth with neurodevelopmental conditions at both the whole-brain and regional levels of analysis. In a new line of work, I aim to examine the relationship between modifiable lifestyle factors, such as maternal and early childhood nutrition and sleep, and both brain and behavior development in youth with neurodevelopmental conditions using large, population-based datasets. This work will inform policy regarding efforts to prevent adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes, improve early childhood screening, and support novel interventions.

Who has influenced your development and success as a neuropsychologist?

My clinical and research training at the University of Minnesota has had a tremendously influential role in my development as a clinical scientist and pediatric neuropsychologist. I'm deeply grateful for the mentorship provided by **Jeffrey Wozniak**, whose passion for understanding and treating the brain in children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (common and yet often under-recognized neurodevelopmental conditions) has ignited a passion for continuing to serve this population in my own work. The faculty of the University of Minnesota pediatric neuropsychology fellowship, including Drs. King, Eisengart, Pierpont, Kunin-Batson, Hindt, and Yund, have been invaluable to me in learning and practicing compassionate and evidence-based approaches to clinical care. During my graduate studies, **Theresa Lafavor**, my dissertation chair, and clinical supervisor, was also hugely influential in providing me with an introduction to pediatric neuropsychology, developmental research, and models of clinical supervision. Lastly, I have been strongly influenced by the work of **H. Gerry Taylor, Sarah Mattson, Ida Sue Baron, Vicki Anderson, Bruce Pennington, Keith Yeates, Peter Anderson**, and other giants in the field of pediatric neuropsychology who have devoted their careers to advancing our understanding of children with complex developmental needs. 💡





PROGRAM AWARDS RECIPIENT

Abbey Hamlin

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

My INS paper presentation was entitled "The Effects of Economic Stability and Health Care Access on 10-year Change in Memory Outcomes of Black/African American and White Older Adults from the ACTIVE Study." This project examined how contextual factors, such as access to economic and healthcare resources, in the neighborhood environment may affect memory trajectories in older adulthood. Results revealed that greater economic stability protected against age-related memory decline among Black/African American participants, but not White participants. This research demonstrates that reducing community-level disparities in economic stability generated by inequitable economic and social policies could have important downstream effects on the prevention of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.



Abbey Hamlin

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD
University of Texas at Austin

What are the future directions of your current research program?

I plan to expand my current research program through examining the sociobiological mechanisms (e.g., chronic inflammation, DNA methylation) that underlie the relationship between neighborhood factors and cognitive health outcomes. My hope is that this research could inform community-level interventions that reduce risk for Alzheimer's disease and help to address racial/ethnic health disparities. I am also interested in incorporating more structural neuroimaging markers into my research in order to better understand how neighborhood factors get "under the skin" and into the brain to shape late-life cognitive health.

Who has influenced your development and success as a neuropsychologist?

I am immensely grateful for the wisdom and support of **Dr. Laura Zahodne** and **Dr. Zarina Kraal** who helped me to discover the field of neuropsychology and guided me as I conducted my first research project while I was an undergraduate student at the University of Michigan. Dr. Zahodne's incredible work with the community in Detroit and Dearborn inspired my desire to learn how to conduct community-engaged research and ensure my science and clinical practice are reaching those who need it the most. I also owe much of my success to the dedicated mentorship of my PhD advisor, **Dr. Alexandra Clark**. Without her support and continued investment in my growth as a clinical neuropsychologist in training, this project and many others would not have been possible.



SLC AWARDS AND PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENT



Namitasai L. Ande

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH
The George Washington University



Kieran Paddock

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH
Texas A&M University



Jonastasya Griffith

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH
Palo Alto University



Sydney Park

POSTDOC STUDENT RESEARCH
Medical College of Wisconsin



Caitlin O’Riordan

POSTDOC STUDENT RESEARCH
York University



Mark Sanderson-Cimino

MEMORY RESEARCH AWARD
University of California, San Francisco

BRAIN





TRAVEL AWARDS

In your opinion, what makes your submitted abstract special and merits the travel grant award?

In my opinion, what made our submitted abstract stand out was, first, that it focused on the importance of considering the characteristics of the linguistic environment when conducting neuropsychological assessments, and second, that it addressed an under-researched population—Spanish-speaking patients diagnosed with primary progressive aphasia (PPA). In our study, we aimed to evaluate the reading abilities of these patients through a different approach than the traditional one, as Spanish is a transparent language for reading. This approach allowed us to identify different reading impairments despite the lack of irregular words. The small set of tests we presented constitutes a valuable tool for clinicians working with Spanish-speaking patients. Furthermore, the report of diverse dyslexic profiles within this population contributes to a better understanding of PPA, especially in regions like ours where this population has been largely understudied. I believe that these unique aspects of our work, both in methodology and in potential clinical applications, justified consideration for the travel grant award.



Florentina Morello-García

EARLY RESEARCH AWARD

Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina

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

I have been working in the field of neuropsychological research for a few years now, and I have always followed the INS meetings with great enthusiasm. The opportunity to present my work, to meet and learn from leading figures in the field, and finally, to exchange ideas with colleagues from all over the world were the main reasons that inspired me to apply. In addition to these motivations tied to my desire for professional development, it must be noted that, unfortunately, in regions like Latin America, participating in these events is extremely difficult due to the lack of funding. Travel grants, like the ones offered by INS, not only provide opportunities to participate in these events but also serve as a recognition of our work. 💡



TRAVEL AWARDS

Greta, in your opinion, what makes your submitted abstract special and merits the travel grant award?

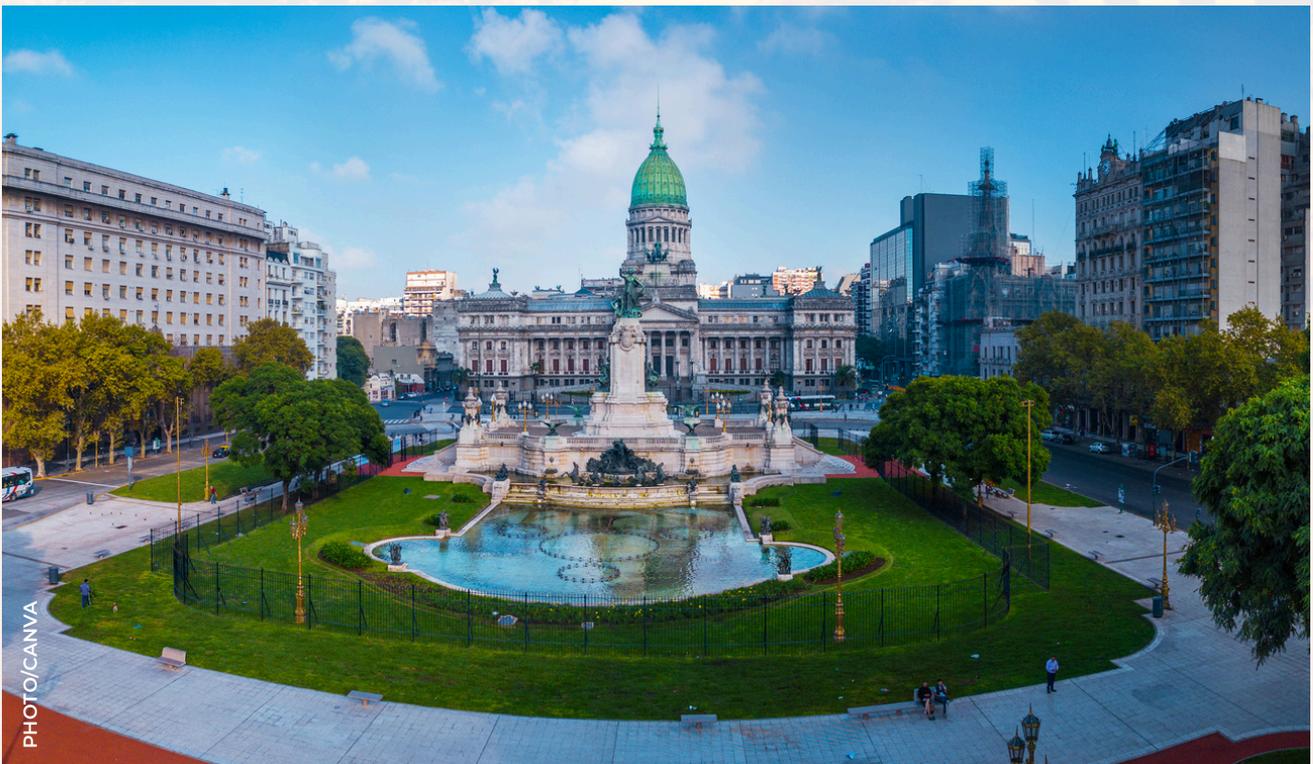
I believe my submitted abstract stands out by addressing an original and critical topic in an underrepresented Latin American population. The study focuses on the surgical management of low-grade gliomas, emphasizing the innovative use of awake surgery to preserve cognitive function and quality of life. It highlights the importance of longitudinal follow-up and comprehensive cognitive assessments to address long-term sequelae. In my view, these contributions offer valuable insights into neurosurgery in Latin America, making the abstract deserving of the travel grant award.



Greta Keller
GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD
Fleni, Argentina

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

My inspiration to apply for the travel grant stems from my strong enthusiasm and commitment to attending the INS conference in person. I highly value the opportunity to engage with other professionals in my field, as it would allow me to enhance my work and introduce innovative ideas to my region. Considering the significant financial barriers and limited access to events of this scale in Latin America, the travel grant represents essential support, enabling me to participate in this important professional experience. 💡





TRAVEL AWARDS

Kritika, in your opinion, what makes your submitted abstract special and merits the travel grant award?

With a lens towards translational science, my research program explores neurocognitive factors shaping the diverse clinical landscape of autism. Utilizing family-genetic and cross-cultural study designs that transcend diagnostic and cultural/linguistic boundaries, I aim to uncover culturally neutral and biologically/clinically meaningful neurocognitive features contributing to social-communicative difficulties in autism. At INS, I was excited to present preliminary findings illustrating the application of these methods in a clinical context.



Kritika Nayar

POST DOCTORAL RESEARCH AWARD
Northwestern University, USA

Specifically, our work identified that combining computational linguistics and eye tracking can effectively track intervention outcomes in autistic youth, revealing social attentional and communicative differences after social-cognitive skills training that were more sensitive than behavioral measures alone. This project lays the foundation for future intervention trials that leverage advanced technology and a transdisciplinary framework to enhance clinical tracking and outcomes, and drive innovation in individualized interventions for autistic individuals.

As a non-U.S. citizen facing challenges in accessing awards and meeting neuropsychology training requirements, this award enabled me to attend INS and continue my advocacy work in this area. In the past, I led initiatives at Northwestern and successfully petitioned for clinical psychology to be recognized as a STEM degree (granting 3-year post-graduate visas, enabling the completion of a 2-year neuropsychology fellowship). This accomplishment propelled my leadership as chair of an ANA sub-committee to support international trainees and led to a joint effort with the APA to petition the government/Dept. of Homeland Security for national STEM recognition. As presenter and senior author of a symposium at INS, we aimed to enhance support for international trainees by disseminating information to trainees and training directors on visa-related challenges, offering mentorship, promoting cross-organizational advocacy, and mobilizing collaboration among stakeholders.

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

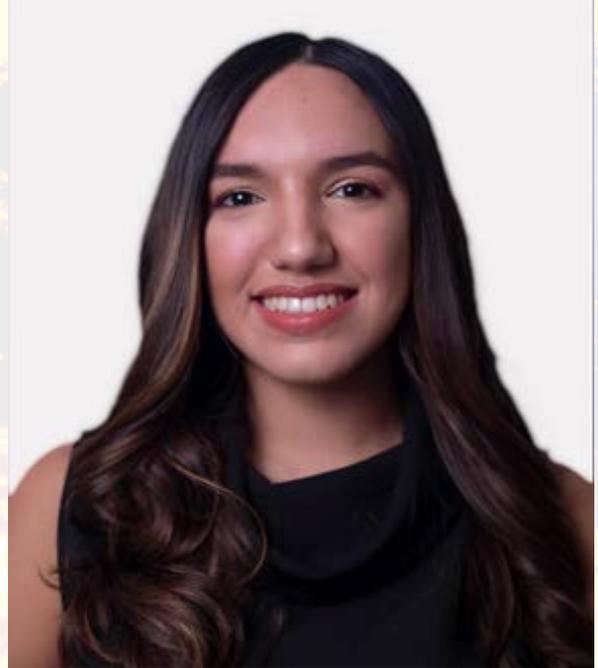
I am grateful to INS for providing the financial support that allowed me to attend the conference. This opportunity enabled me to engage in meaningful discussions, not only on the topics mentioned above but also as an at-large delegate for the Minnesota Conference Update. The inspiring, collaborative energy of the event motivated me to further pursue advocacy efforts. Additionally, being on the job market at the time, I am especially thankful for the chance to network with potential employers and broaden my perspectives—an experience that would not have been possible without attending INS. I look forward giving back by supporting the next generation of neuropsychologists in the imminent future. 🌟



TRAVEL AWARDS

In your opinion, what makes your submitted abstract special and merits the travel grant award?

My research focused on exploring the potential of the online Spanish version of the CERAD to identify possible mild cognitive impairment (MCI) among Puerto Ricans. This study provided insight into the neurocognitive differences between cognitively healthy adults and a statistically determined suspicious MCI group (S-MCI). The findings suggest that this adapted CERAD version is sensitive in detecting significant cognitive differences in Puerto Ricans scoring 26-30 on the MMSE, raising further questions about the Spanish MMSE's sensitivity and suggesting that it should be used cautiously. Thus, the CERAD could be a pivotal tool in improving MCI screening and diagnosis among Puerto Ricans. Furthermore, since the CERAD has been widely validated and adapted around the world, these findings have the potential for future cross-cultural comparisons.



Glariangeliz Tapia

EARLY RESEARCH AWARD

Ponce Health Science University, Puerto Rico

By advancing culturally appropriate screening tools for neurocognitive disorders, this research aligns with the conference theme of “Culture & Connectivity- Neuropsychology without Borders” with the potential to improve diagnostic accuracy for Puerto Ricans.

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

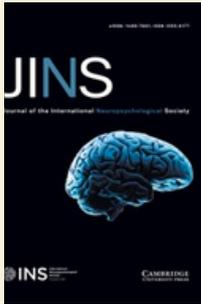
The decision to apply for the INS travel grant was motivated by several factors. First, it offers an invaluable opportunity to disseminate my research findings with colleagues from diverse backgrounds, contributing to a better understanding of neurocognitive disorders within an underrepresented Latino population. Second, the award provides access to a platform for meaningful idea exchange, expanding academic research and clinical networks, and exposure to cutting-edge studies, all of which enrich my knowledge of cultural neuropsychology. Finally, my mentor, **Dr. Hjalmar Zambrana Bonaparte**, has played a pivotal role in encouraging me to pursue opportunities that allow me to grow as a researcher and support my academic and professional goals. 💡





JINS OPEN-ACCESS

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



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.

The Grenada Learning and Memory Scale: Psychometric features and normative data in Caribbean preschool children

The GLAMS is a psychometrically sound measure of learning and memory in Grenadian preschool children. Further adaptation and scale-up to global LMICs are recommended. [» LEARN MORE](#)

Blackmon K, Evans R, Mohammed L, et al. The Grenada Learning and Memory Scale: Psychometric features and normative data in Caribbean preschool children. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*. Published online 2024:1-11. doi:10.1017/S1355617724000481

Beyond brain injury: Examining the neuropsychological and psychosocial sequelae of post-traumatic epilepsy

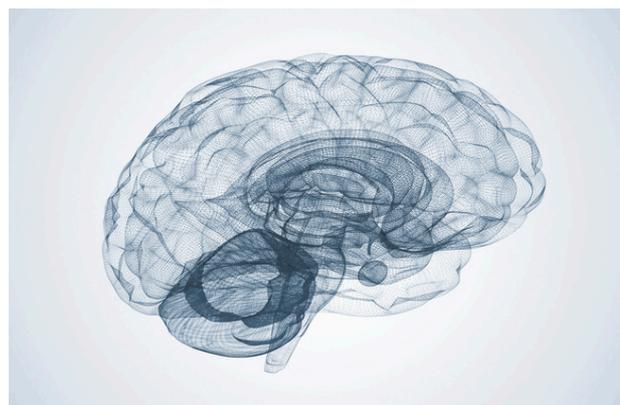
The research suggests that PTE may intensify the difficulties faced by individuals with TBI, but its impact on overall recovery might not be significant, considering the trajectory of the brain injury itself. Notably, the MoCA results indicate that cognitive deficits are more pronounced in PTE patients compared to those with TBI, underscoring the necessity for targeted neuropsychological assessments. Further investigation is essential to explore PTE's broader neuropsychological and psychosocial impacts. These findings advocate for tailored care strategies that address both neuropsychological and psychosocial needs, ensuring comprehensive management of TBI and PTE. [» LEARN MORE](#)

Kuo Y-H, Kuo J-R, Nyam T-TE, Wang C-C, Su B-Y. Beyond brain injury: Examining the neuropsychological and psychosocial sequelae of post-traumatic epilepsy. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*. Published online 2024:1-8. doi:10.1017/S1355617724000456

Psychometric and adherence considerations for high-frequency, smartphone-based cognitive screening protocols in older adults

The research suggests that PTE may intensify the difficulties faced by individuals with TBI, but its impact on overall recovery might not be significant, considering the trajectory of the brain injury itself. Notably, the MoCA results indicate that cognitive deficits are more pronounced in PTE patients compared to those with TBI, underscoring the necessity for targeted neuropsychological assessments. Further investigation is essential to explore PTE's broader neuropsychological and psychosocial impacts. These findings advocate for tailored care strategies that address both neuropsychological and psychosocial needs, ensuring comprehensive management of TBI and PTE. [» LEARN MORE](#)

Thompson LI, De Vito AN, Kunicki ZJ, et al. Psychometric and adherence considerations for high-frequency, smartphone-based cognitive screening protocols in older adults. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*. Published online 2024:1-9. doi:10.1017/S1355617724000328





JINS OPEN-ACCESS

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

Allostatic load and cognitive recall among young adults: Racial, ethnic, and sex-specific variations

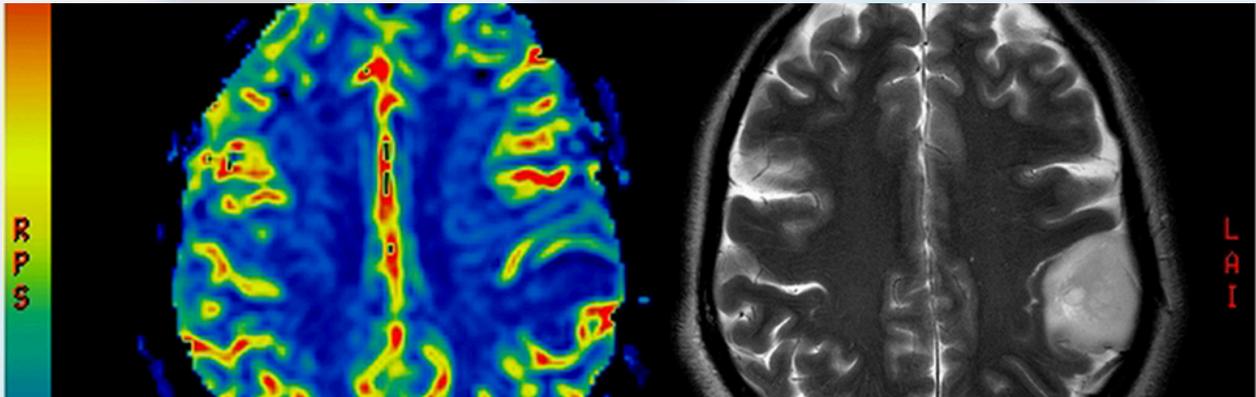
Race and sex differences were observed in recall at different levels of AL. Findings demonstrate the need for further exploration of cognition in young adults across diverse populations that includes examination of AL. [» LEARN MORE](#)

Evans E, Jacobs M, Ellis C. Allostatic load and cognitive recall among young adults: Racial, ethnic, and sex-specific variations. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*. Published online 2024:1-9. doi:10.1017/S1355617724000298

Clinical utility of brief screening measures during neuropsychological consultation for pediatric onset multiple sclerosis

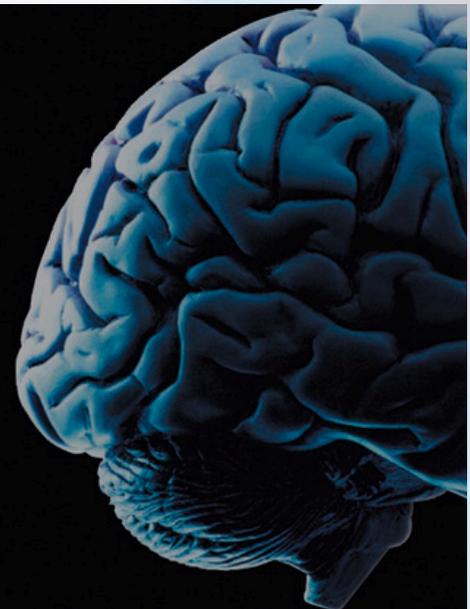
Comparison of scores across caregiver rating questionnaires and on a targeted neuropsychological battery suggests that the screening surveys alone may not be sensitive enough to identify children with cognitive impairments, but ratings may provide qualitatively meaningful information along with neuropsychological testing. This study illustrates how pediatric neuropsychologists can leverage screening tools to focus consultative interviews and effectively triage referrals for evaluation within an academic medical setting. [» LEARN MORE](#)

Nguyen-Martinez A, Weigand B, Wolfe K, Kammeyer R, Schreiner T, Hutaff-Lee C. Clinical utility of brief screening measures during neuropsychological consultation for pediatric onset multiple sclerosis. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*. Published online 2024:1-8. doi:10.1017/S1355617724000419



JINS

Journal of the International
Neuropsychological Society





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.



Mary Beth Spitznagel, PhD

Looking for help with English language editing or help with research design or statistics?

Consider contacting the **INS Global Engagement Committee's Research and Editing Consulting Program (RECP)**. Our mission is to support global researchers in the field of neuropsychology to publish their research in English-language journals. The RECP facilitates research dissemination in neuropsychology by matching those needing English language, research design, and/or statistical support with volunteer experts. Members of the neuropsychology professional community, including NAN, SCN (Division 40), or INS members are eligible to become volunteer consultants. 



For further information about utilizing the RECP for your own research or becoming a consultant, please contact Dr. Mary Beth Spitznagel at mspitzna@kent.edu.

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WRITE

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STUDENT AND TRAINEE

Interview with ANA's OPT Ad Hoc Committee

This section of the newsletter is for the student-run standing committee with specific goals to address student and trainee professional development needs, foster student contributions to neuropsychological science, and provide opportunities for student involvement and leadership within the INS.



Introduction

The Asian Neuropsychological Association's (ANA) OPT Ad Hoc Committee is dedicated to improving support for trainees and professionals with education or training from outside the United States. Currently, most of these trainees rely on visa arrangements to train and work in the U.S. However, graduates of clinical and counseling psychology doctoral programs in the U.S. are granted only one year of work authorization (Optional Practical Training, OPT) after completing their degree.

This limited timeframe presents a significant barrier for those seeking to pursue a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in clinical neuropsychology. The ANA's OPT Ad Hoc Committee aims to raise awareness about this issue and relevant structural constraints, as well as to provide information and tangible support for trainees and training programs to advocate for changes within the U.S.

The committee is currently chaired by Dr. Kritika Nayar, who works with dedicated team members including Drs. Elizabeth Choi, Palak Lunia, and Iris Yi Miao, along with advisory board members Drs. Doris Hong and Rinku Lalchandani. To learn more about ANA, visit [here](#). If you're interested in connecting with the OPT Ad Hoc Committee, please reach out to internationaltrainee@the-ana.org.



PHOTO/ANA WEBSITE



STUDENT AND TRAINEE

Interview with ANA's OPT Ad Hoc Committee

Common barriers faced encountered by international trainees

International trainees' experiences are deeply impacted by immigration-related policies at both pre-doctoral and postdoctoral levels. At the pre-doctoral level, international trainees are required to submit several requests annually for employment authorization to the USCIS to maintain off-campus clinical placements during their academic training. Depending on the type of employment authorization obtained, trainees may face restrictions affecting their eligibility for post-graduation work authorization or may need to negotiate their pre-doctoral internship length and/or post-doctoral fellowship visa mechanism. International trainees are additionally precluded from several pre-doctoral internship sites (e.g., VAs, government HRSA-funded programs), impacting their competitiveness for post-doctoral fellowships and jobs. Critically, the current system lacks the infrastructure essential for completing the training requirements of a board-eligible neuropsychologist. Specifically, Clinical and Counseling Psychology are not considered STEM-designated programs (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics), meaning graduates are only eligible for 12 months of post-graduation work authorization (as opposed to 36 months from a STEM-designated program). This limitation creates significant obstacles in completing neuropsychological fellowship requirements (e.g., a two-year neuropsychology fellowship). As such, the necessity to complete a 2-year fellowship inherently creates an inequitable lack of access to board certification in neuropsychology for international trainees.

The complexities of these policies require trainees to stay informed about regulations and updates, often placing the onus on them to educate their clinical training directors, who may be unfamiliar with these restrictions. To this end, the emotional strain of maintaining legal immigrant status adds an extra burden for international trainees. The ANA OPT Ad Hoc Committee is here to provide information and support to trainees who may find themselves in any of these scenarios.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANA WEBSITE



STUDENT AND TRAINEE

Interview with ANA's OPT Ad Hoc Committee

What is a small step that programs can take to support visa-holding trainees? What are other recommendations you have for programs to help make a difference?

Institutional support plays a crucial role in supporting visa-holding trainees. The ANA OPT Ad Hoc Committee is also here to provide support and guidance to training directors and programs who are looking to support their international trainees. Below we outline some actionable items:

1. **Promoting awareness among training directors about the challenges of international trainees.** Program directors can create a platform through student committees or school activities to hear the voices of international trainees.
2. **Academic and professional career advising should include navigation of barriers in training opportunities,** e.g., provide and protect additional training opportunities or hiring slots considering that certain internship/postdoctoral sites are not accepting international applicants.
3. **Consider designating Clinical/Counseling Psychology programs as a STEM degree.** This could be done by changing the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes to STEM-designated codes (a multi-steps process involving the training director, department chair, registrar office, office of international student's office, etc). This conversion is critical as it allows international students to qualify for extended Optional Practical Training (OPT) periods, securing sufficient time for them to obtain postdoctoral training and meeting board-certification requirements within the United States. This is also crucial in facilitating potential pathways to long-term employment in the country.
4. **Preparing the institution for change.** Program directors can identify the multiple stakeholders across university departments (e.g. training directors) and administrative levels (e.g., human resources, international student office, legal consult) to gather information about the pros and cons of CIP code conversion. They can also contact the ANA (and the OPT Ad Hoc Committee in particular) should they be interested in learning more information on how best to support international trainees.
5. **On a national level, programs can engage in petition and advocacy work.** Programs can petition with larger professional organizations (e.g., APA, CUDCP, AITCN, APPCN, AACN, ABCN) to a federal agency (Department of Homeland Security, DHS) to formally re-classify Clinical/Counseling Psychology program to be an official STEM-designated program. See the list of STEM-designated programs [here](#). Of note, the ANA OPT Ad Hoc Committee is collaborating with the APA for a petition to the DHS, which is an ongoing effort and we welcome more collaborators!



STUDENT AND TRAINEE

Interview with ANA's OPT Ad Hoc Committee

Recommendations for trainees

International trainees pursuing post-doctoral neuropsychological training are advised to take proactive measures to remain informed about visa application requirements and to maintain their immigration status. To facilitate this process, it is recommended that trainees establish regular check-ins with their academic advisors, the international student office, and/or the legal team at their training site. Close collaboration can help address visa-related concerns, monitor upcoming requirements, and understand specific program codes and the duration of OPT available, thereby ensuring a smoother academic and professional experience.

Given the variability in visa regulations across countries, trainees should avoid assuming that the experiences or timelines of peers from different countries will apply to their situation. Instead, personalized guidance from academic advisors or the international student office, tailored to their country of origin or nationality, is essential.

Additionally, networking with other international students and seeking advice from mentors or peers who have successfully navigated the post-doctoral visa process can provide valuable insights. Trainees can utilize resources such as the ANA OPT Ad Hoc Committee, accessible through the ANA listserv, for further support and information on navigating visa-related challenges during their training. Trainees can learn more about ANA [here](#) and can contact the OPT Ad Hoc Committee [here](#).



PHOTO/ANA WEBSITE



STUDENT AND TRAINEE

Interview with ANA's OPT Ad Hoc Committee

Future Plans

The ANA's OPT Ad-Hoc Committee is currently leading several projects, including (but not limited to) creating a fact sheet on the barriers and action items geared towards training directors, hosting ongoing Q&A sessions for both trainees with education or training from outside the U.S. and U.S.-based training directors, and compiling a list of neuropsychology-focused postdoctoral fellowships that offer visa support for international trainees to complete their programs. In addition to these efforts, the ANA is actively supporting a broader audience through various ongoing initiatives. Specifically, the organization is working to assist individuals who have trained outside the U.S. and are pursuing neuropsychology careers within the country. The ANA also maintains close collaboration with global neuropsychologists through the ANA's International Liaison Ad-Hoc Committee and is planning to expand its partnerships with organizations like INS and American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology to broaden its reach and enhance engagement.

Kritika Nayar, PhD, MS

Clinical Assistant Professor | Pediatric Neuropsychologist
NYU Child Study Center | Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Hassenfeld Children's Hospital at NYU Langone

Elizabeth Choi, PhD

Clinical Neuropsychologist,
Private Practice, EC Neuropsychological Health PC & San Francisco Neuropsychology,
San Francisco, California

Palak Lunia, PsyD

Staff Clinical Neuropsychologist
New Jersey Shore Medical Center, Neptune, NJ (starting November 2024)

Iris Yi Miao, PhD

Neuropsychologist
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA (starting December 2024)







POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check out a Sampling of Current Jobs Postings Online

Below is a listing of current positions advertised on the INS main website. For a more complete listing, please visit the Job Postings section of the INS website. **Please note** that INS neither warrants the factual aspects of postings nor endorses any position, institute, or employment requirement. Click the link icon to access the job posting.



Clinical Neuropsychologist - Trinity Health



PREVEA

Pediatric Neuropsychologist - Prevea Health



Clinical Neuropsychologist - Neurobehavior North Inc.



Child Neuropsychologist - VCU Health



Clinical Neuropsychologist - Dartmouth Health



Clinical Neuropsychologist - University of Kentucky



The Board hopes that INS members will find these listings useful. Please feel free to duplicate, post, or distribute the listings as necessary.

[Job Postings](#)



CROSS-CULTURAL DIGEST

Connecting cultures through shared studies, book recommendations, stories, & experiences.

[Home](#) > [Psychonomic Bulletin & Review](#) > Article

Consideration of culture in cognition: How we can enrich methodology and theory

Theoretical/Review | Published: 12 December 2022
Volume 30, pages 914–931, (2023) [Cite this article](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)



In this paper, the authors emphasize the importance of including diverse cultures in cognitive psychology research. They highlight that most studies rely heavily on participants and researchers from Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic cultures, which limits the generalizability of findings and overlooks crucial variability in human cognition. Their review of cognitive psychology journals from 2016 to 2020 reveals that only 7% of articles address culture, and most of those focus on language or bilingualism. Moreover, they argue that cognitive research, built on methodologies from the past century, would benefit greatly from a more diverse representation of cultures. This shift could reveal cognitive processes that are either universal or vary across cultures. To support this, they highlight relevant cross-cultural research, connect it to existing cognitive theories, and provide practical steps for the field to adopt a broader cultural perspective, while also recognizing the challenges involved in this shift. 



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.

Continuing Education Opportunities and Options

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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](#), and [Facebook](#) (search for International Neuropsychological Society).



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