THE SOCIETY FOR
CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY
Division 40 of the American Psychological Association

Volume 36, Number 2 Summer/Fall 2017

SCN Executive Committee
2016 - 2017

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APA Relations	
Mike Schoenberg	2015-18
Publications and Communications	
Brian Yochim	2014-17
Finance Committee	
Kevin Duff	2015-16
Chairs of Umbrella Committees	
Education Advisory	
Brad Roper	2014-17

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear members of the Society for Clinical Neuropsychology,

It is my pleasure to bring you the latest edition of the Newsletter of the Society for Clinical Neuropsychology.

We would like to welcome Dr. Mark Bondi to the role of SCN President, a position he assumed following the 2016 APA Convention. We would like to also thank SCN Past-President, Dr. Jennifer Vasterling, for her leadership and hard work over the past year.

We are excited to include a short statement by Dr. Brad Roper titled *"Development of Postdoctoral Competencies Required for Accreditation in Clinical Neuropsychology."* In the section contributed by Dr. William Barr, The SCN Archives, we honor the memory of SCN members who have passed in early 2017. If you are planning to attend the 125th APA Convention, please see the following link for a full program and SCN sponsored sessions:
http://www.scn40.org/uploads/4/7/2/2/47220679/2017_scn_colisting_sessions_2017.pdf

You can also read about the ongoing accomplishments of our Program Committee, Scientific Advisory Committee, Publications and Communications Committee, Women in Neuropsychology (WIN) Committee and Membership Committee. We also have several announcements of awards and calls for committee membership.

Personally, I would like to thank all of you for your support and contributions to the newsletter for the past 3 years. It has been an honor and pleasure to be part of SCN Publications and Communications Committee. My term will be ending in August of 2017 and Dr. Deborah Hoffnung has graciously agreed to take on this role (term: August 2017-August 2020)

Please make your newsletter submissions to an incoming Newsletter Editor, Deborah Hoffnung Ph.D. at Deborah.Hoffnung@alegent.org.
Hope to see you at the 125th APA Convention in Washington D.C.

Maya Yutsis, PhD, ABPP

Newsletter 40 is the official publication of Division 40.

The Incoming Editor is:
Deborah Hoffnung, PhD
Deborah.Hoffnung@alegent.org.

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Past issues of the Division 40 Newsletter and Division 40 Executive Committee meeting minutes are now available online at the Division 40 Website. The URL address is: http://www.div40.org/.

Scientific Advisory	
Beth Twamley	2014-17
Practice Advisory	
Maggie Lanca	2015-18
Public Interest Advisory	
Becky Ready	2014-17
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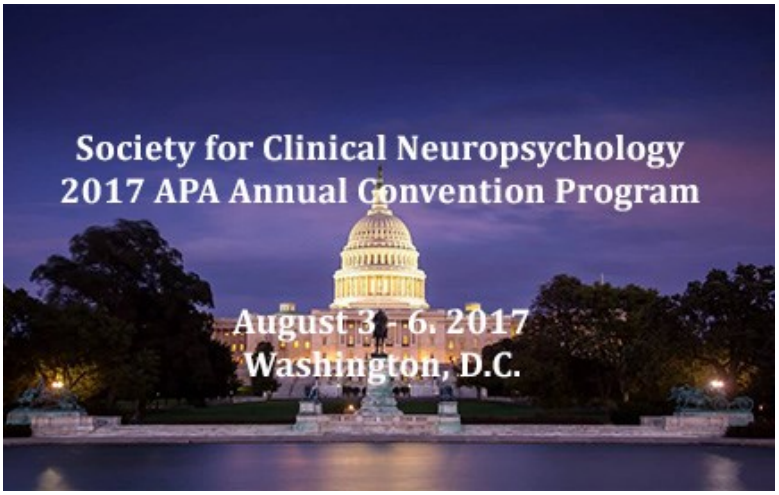
Missy Lancaster	2016-19
Susan McGlynn	2016-19
Social Media Editor	
David Kaufman	2014-17
Webmaster	
Juliette Galindo	2014-17



The 125th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association Division 40 – Society for Clinical Neuropsychology – in conjunction with its President Mark Bondi, invite you to the 2017 APA convention, which will take place August 3-6, 2017 in Washington, D.C. Topics include HIV and Aging, Neuropsychology in a Diversifying Population, and an Interactive Guide to Neuroimaging in Neuropsychology.

For more information, please visit the APA website at: http://www.apa.org/convention/. Please contact the program chair, Dr. Melissa Lamar (melissa_lamar@rush.edu) or co-chair, Dr. Sara Weisenbach (sara.weisenbach@hsc.utah.edu) with any specific questions regarding the SCN/Division 40 program.

For more information, please visit the APA website at: **http://www.apa.org/convention/.**

Newsletter 40 is the official publication of Division 40.

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Webmaster is
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DEVELOPMENT OF POSTDOCTORAL COMPETENCIES REQUIRED FOR ACCREDITATION IN CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

By Brad L. Roper, Ph.D., ABPP-CN

Over the years, postdoctoral training programs in clinical neuropsychology have had limited guidance in determining what competencies should be required for all residents as they progress through the program. We have been able to draw from the Houston Conference Policy Statement, but since the late 1990s we have witnessed many developments, both within psychology and other professions, regarding how competencies are conceptualized and specified. The lack of clarity was particularly apparent in the (now replaced) Guidelines and Principals of Accreditation (G&P), which required programs to articulate "goals, objectives, and competencies" but offered little guidance on what those terms actually mean. One reason for that lack of clarity was that psychology – in contrast to most other professions – has taken a "big-tent" approach to accreditation, reflecting the diversity of career paths, practice settings, and emphasis on research productivity in our discipline.

From my experience in reviewing internship and postdoc programs, either as a site-visitor or as a member of the APA Commission on Accreditation (CoA), I was often frustrated that the big-tent approach set many programs up for criticism from CoA. Many program directors found the G&P to be confusing, which placed obstacles in the form of layers of abstraction and so-called "G&P-speak" that were far removed from a reasonable assessment of a program's quality. Programs seemed to be criticized not just for **missing the mark** but for **constructing the wrong target**. That's one reason why the CoA began a multiyear process to revise accreditation standards and clarify expectations, i.e., how to construct the target.

The revised accreditation standards, now called the Standards of Accreditation (SoA), solved several of the problems with the old G&P. One solution is that competencies and their measurable elements are now clearly specified as "Profession-Wide Competencies" (PWCs). The PWCs apply to all accredited programs at the doctoral and internship levels for entry-level practice in health service psychology, but not for postdoc programs. Specialty practice areas, including clinical neuropsychology, are conceptualized as building upon health service psychology and involving additional competencies (e.g., knowledge, skills, attitudes, and approaches) which are unique and serve to define and distinguish one specialty from another. For example, the Assessment competency in clinical neuropsychology includes unique elements, such as understanding the "patterns of behavioral, cognitive, and emotional impairments associated with neurological and related diseases and conditions that affect brain structure and functioning" (see link below for other examples).

If there are competencies unique to clinical neuropsychology and other specialties involved in postdoctoral training, how does the CoA determine what competencies are required of programs? That is where the specialty organizations come in. In late 2016, the CoA, with help from the Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology (CoS), asked the specialty organizations to each determine what competencies should be required for accredited postdoctoral programs in their specialty. In May and June of 2017, a workgroup formed by the Clinical Neuropsychology Synarchy (CNS) met in a series of conference calls to draft competencies that would be required of all postdoctoral programs. The workgroup was composed of a subset of five training directors drawn from the 25 currently APA-accredited postdoctoral programs in clinical neuropsychology. In selecting workgroup members, consideration was made regarding proportion of representation, including VA-based programs, DoD-based programs, and other programs, including a representative of academic medical centers and pediatric neuropsychology. The five workgroup members include Amy Heffelfinger, Ph.D., ABPP-CN (Co-Chair, Medical College of Wisconsin), Karin J. McCoy, Ph.D., ABPP-CN (South Texas Veterans Health Care System), Brad L. Roper, Ph.D., ABPP-

CN (Co-Chair, Memphis VA Medical Center), Robert A. Seegmiller, Ph.D., ABPP-CN (San Antonio Military Medical Center), and Jessica L. Vassallo, Ph.D., ABPP-CN (James A. Haley Veterans Hospital).

In developing a set of competencies, and their measurable elements, required of accredited postdoctoral programs, the workgroup was charged by CoA to fashion the competencies at a level of abstraction similar to CoA's regulation regarding Profession-Wide Competences. The workgroup also drew upon the Entry-Level Competencies in Clinical Neuropsychology, approved by CNS in 2016 and available in the Clinical Neuropsychology Section here: http://www.cospp.org/education-and-training-guidelines. As stated in the Preamble to our entry-level competencies, some of those competencies contain aspirational elements. (I am reminded that Houston Conference Guidelines were also originally fashioned to be aspirational, and are now widely accepted.) Accordingly, the task of the workgroup was to a) identify only the required elements for clinical neuropsychology postdoc programs and b) express them at a level of abstraction similar to the CoA's PWCs.

The workgroup conducted a series of conference calls May-June 2017, culminating in a draft of competencies and their elements. At this writing, the results are soon to be distributed to CNS-member organizations and accredited clinical neuropsychology postdoc programs. The CoA is expected to receive the competencies from all specialties by July 1, after which time they will be released for public comment. My understanding is that the CoA will review and possibly edit the competencies, eventually including them as an Implementing Regulation to the SoA. My hope is that the CoA's editing will not drift from the intent of the specialties themselves – otherwise it would defeat the purpose of seeking input from the specialties in the first place. In any case, I expect that it will be at least a year before the specialty competencies are a part of accreditation standards. In the meantime, programs seeking or renewing accreditation are asked to specify competencies as best they can based on their understanding of Houston Conference Guidelines. Additionally, programs are strongly advised to review the SoA and its new Implementing Regulations, attend training offered by the CoA or review online tutorials, and call the APA Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation with any questions. Once the so-called Level 3 or specialty specific competencies are in place, programs will have considerable guidance in how to structure training and evaluation methods.

THE SCN ARCHIVES

By William Barr, PhD, ABPP
Division Archivist

SCN is saddened to announce the passing in first half of 2017 of one of its most distinguished members:

In Memoriam: Gerald Goldstein, Ph.D., ABPP

SCN mourns the passing of Dr. Gerald Goldstein on April 8, 2017 who was truly a pioneer in the field of clinical neuropsychology. Dr. Goldstein served both the division and APA in multiple capacities. He was a fellow in multiple APA divisions (12, 13, & 40) and completed a term as the Division 40 President in 1988-89. He also served as the chair of the Fellowship Committee (1986) and two terms as the division's representative to the APA Council of Representatives (1992-98). He was awarded a Presidential Citation through APA in February 2017, "for extensive and significant contributions to clinical neuropsychology for over 60 years." Dr. Goldstein had the distinction of receiving training by both Kurt Goldstein and Ralph Reitan, two giants in the history of neuropsychology. He worked many years for the Department of Veterans Affairs and served as an officer for many other neuropsychology organizations. He was a prolific researcher, publishing more than 350 articles, books, and other works. The scope of his work was extensive, covering a variety of topics with particular emphases in alcoholism and schizophrenia. He also

credited as publishing the first clinical neuropsychology textbook in English. Dr. Goldstein was a great contributor to our field who will be sorely missed by all.

Update on the archive collection
The division is currently in the process of transferring its collection from its longtime home at Louisiana State University to the APA Archives at the headquarters in Washington, D.C. This transfer will enhance access to the collection for members of SCN and others in the academic psychology community.

Members will receive updates on the transfer in coming months. More information about the APA Archives can be found at http://www.apa.org/about/apa/archives/index.aspx.

In the mean time, please send any historical items of interest for inclusion in columns to appear in future newsletter issues.

William B. Barr, Ph.D., ABPP
Division Archivist, Society of Clinical Neuropsychology
Director of Neuropsychology,
Associate Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry
NYU School of Medicine
NYU Comprehensive Epilepsy Center
E-mail: william.barr@nyumc.org

PROGRAM COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Updated Directory:

PC Chair 2016-2017: Melissa Lamar, Ph.D (Melisa_lamar@rush.edu)
PC co-Chair 2016-2017: Sara Weisenbach, Ph.D., ABPP (Sara.Weisenbach@hsc.utah.edu)

1) Summary of what APA SCN Division and each committee has accomplished this year.

The PC is proud to present the APA SCN Division 2017 conference agenda complete with 8 collaborative proposals accepted by the CPG, over 100 symposium, paper and poster submissions, many of which are available as CE courses, and 44 co-listed programs.

For detailed information about the SCN Division conference agenda including collaborative proposals and CE courses, please visit:
http://www.scn40.org/uploads/4/7/2/2/47220679/2017_scn_apa_schedule_final_5.24.2017.pdf

For information about SCN Division 40 co-listed sessions, please visit:
http://www.scn40.org/uploads/4/7/2/2/47220679/2017_scn_colisting_sessions_2017.pdf

For a 1.5 page 'Program-at-a-Glance', please visit:
http://www.scn40.org/uploads/4/7/2/2/47220679/2017_scn_colisting_sessions_2017.pdf

The 'Program-at-a-Glance' will also available at the conference registration hall (along with other Division 40 items including ribbons for your APA badge). The electronic copy may be found at:
http://www.scn40.org/uploads/4/7/2/2/47220679/2017_scn_programataglance_2017.pdf

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

Elizabeth W. Twamley, Ph.D., Committee Chair

July 2017 Executive Committee Report

This report outlines SCN SAC activities for the period February 2017 – July 2017.

1. Membership

The current SAC is now comprised of the following members:

Name:	Term expiration:	email address:
Karin Hoth	Aug 2018	karin-hoth@uiowa.edu
Melissa Lamar	Aug 2017	mlamar@psych.uic.edu
Elizabeth Twamley (chair)	Aug 2017	etwamley@ucsd.edu
Sara Weisenbach	Aug 2017	sara.weisenbach@hsc.utah.edu
Steven Woods	Aug 2017	spwoods@uh.edu
Paul Cirino	Aug 2018	paul.cirino@times.uh.edu
Mark Ettenhofer	Aug 2018	mark.ettenhofer@usuhs.edu
Tricia Zawacki King	Aug 2020	tzking@gsu.edu
Ozioma Okonkwo	Aug 2018	ozioma@medicine.wisc.edu
Molly Zimmerman	Aug 2018	mzimmerman7@fordham.edu
Lindsay Clark	Aug 2019	lrclark@medicine.wisc.edu
Mitzi Gonzales	Aug 2019	mitzi.m.gonzales@gmail.com
Shizuko Morimoto	Aug 2019	ssm9006@med.cornell.edu
Andreana Haley	Aug 2019	haley@psy.utexas.edu
Laura Zahodne	Aug 2019	lzahodne@umich.edu
Lindsay Miller	Aug 2019	Lindsay.Miller2@UHhospitals.org

Ronald Lazar, whose term was scheduled to expire in Aug 2018, resigned from the committee due to being unable to meet the time commitments required for serving.

Tricia Zawacki King is the incoming chair of the SAC, so her term will now expire in Aug 2020.

Mariana Cherner (mcherner@ucsd.edu) will join the committee in Aug 2017, and her term will expire in Aug 2020.

2. APA Convention Research Mentoring Workshop

For the 2016 APA Convention, the SCN SAC has organized a 2-hour interactive early career mentoring workshop centering on building research careers in neuropsychology and geropsychology. This workshop was accepted as a two-hour collaborative proposal entitled "Procuring Federal Funding for Your Research: An Interactive Mentoring Workshop." Dr. Sara Weisenbach is the SCN lead for planning the workshop, and it will be co-chaired by Dr. Vonetta Dotson (Divisions 20 & 40). Keynote speakers will be Dr. Jovier Evans, who will deliver a talk entitled, "Grant Funding 101: National Institute of Mental Health Resources for Early Stage Investigators," and Dr. Tshaka Cunningham, who will present a lecture entitled, "Grant Funding 101: VHA Research and Development Program Resources for Early Stage Investigators."

3. Awards and Pilot Research Grants

The pilot research study awards program was led this year by Dr. Karin Hoth. We received 12 grant proposals, each reviewed by two SCN committee members and discussed/voted on by the committee as a whole. The two pilot awards were given to:

Amery Treble-Barna, PhD
University of Pittsburgh
"Epigenetic Influences on Neurobehavioral Recovery Following Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury"

Brian Kavanaugh, PsyD
Brown University/Bradley Hospital
"Cognitive Training to Treat Neural, Cognitive and Behavioral Levels of Executive Functioning Deficits in Children with Anxiety/Depressive Disorder"

Dr. Hoth will also lead the 2018 Pilot Research Grants program. Dr. Hoth will submit advertising materials to SCN distribution outlets (e.g., neuroblast, newsletter, website), as well as to the Early Career Committee. SAC plans to award two one-year grants to early career applicants ($15,000 each). The deadline for applications is March 15, 2018, with anticipated notice of awards on April 16, 2018.

4. Items for EC Discussion
None.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth W. Twamley, Ph.D.
Chair, Scientific Advisory Committee

SCN PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, JANUARY 2017

Brian Yochim, PhD, ABPP, Committee Chair

The Publications and Communications Committee oversees the Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (SCN) newsletter, website, NeuroBlasts, social media, and listserv. Juliette Galindo continues to develop and manage our website, https://www.scn40.org/. The website receives between 200 and 300 unique visitors every day, and upwards of 1500 per week on average. Juliette updates content, is developing content for the members-only section, manages the jobs page, and works with Cady Block on the Early Career section. We are planning to transition the website for the Association for Neuropsychology Students in Training (ANST) to be housed under the SCN site in the next year and Juliette is coordinating this transfer with the ANST communications officer. We are working on developing a members-only section of the website, including exclusive resources and a database of presentations. Goals for our committee in the upcoming year for the website include identifying and approving appropriate content for the members only pages, and then to assign our members user accounts to access the content. Dr. Galindo has agreed to serve another three-year term as webmaster.

Dr. Melissa Lancaster and Dr. Sue McGlynn are assembling the monthly Neuroblasts which are sent out over the listserv. Drs. Lancaster and McGlynn welcome new content to add to the NeuroBlasts. Dr. Maya Yutsis manages the Newsletter and we continue to publish two newsletters per year. Dr. Yutsis' term as newsletter editor ends in August 2017, and Dr. Deborah Hoffnung has agreed to serve a three-year term as Newsletter Editor starting in August.

Dr. David Kaufman, social media editor, continues to post news and events on social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. SCN continues to be the largest neuropsychological group on Facebook, with over 6,200 followers. If you are on Facebook, be sure to "like" the SCN and you will receive SCN updates in your feed. Doing so will also spread the word about clinical neuropsychology to all your acquaintances.

Dr. Brian Yochim's term as Chair of the Publications and Communications committee will end at the APA convention in August 2017, and Dr. David Kaufman has agreed to take on this role.

If you have information you would like to share with the broader SCN membership, please send an email to societyclinicalneuropsychology@gmail.com and the message will go to all members of our committee. We will then distribute the information in the appropriate outlets.

Brian Yochim, PhD, ABPP
VA St. Louis Health Care System
St. Louis, Missouri
Brian.Yochim@va.gov

WOMEN IN NEUROPSYCHOLOGY (WIN) SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair:	Andreana Benitez, PhD	benitez@musc.edu
Members:	Melissa Buttaro, PhD	mbuttaro@lifespan.org
	Melanie Chandler, PhD	chandler.melanie@mayo.edu
	Sarah Raskin, PhD	sarah.raskin@trincoll.edu
	Gennrina Santorelli, MA	gsantorelli@psych.umass.edu
	Cheryl Silver, PhD	cheryl.silver@utsouthwestern.edu

The Women in Neuropsychology (WIN) subcommittee is fortunate to have Dr. Kirsta Lisdahl as our new Chair (Term: 2017-2020) and Ms. Lisa Manderino (Term: 2017-2019) as our second student representative. Welcome! Dr. Andreana Benitez will rotate off of WIN in August.

One of the main tasks of the WIN subcommittee is to provide conference programs for both INS and APA. For APA in Washington, DC, August 2017, we have partnered with the Division of Rehabilitation Psychology (Div. 22) to host the following symposium:

What:	"Best Practices in Mentoring of Women in Psychology: Lessons for Receiving and Giving Mentoring"
Who:	Drs. Sandra Shullman, Stephanie Hoover, and Shari Miles-Cohen (speakers) Drs. Dawn Bowers and Mary Brownsberger (discussants)
When:	Friday, August 4, 2017, 5:00-5:50pm
Where:	Convention Center Room 159

WIN also maintains a listserv in which its 800+ members can discuss professional development concerns. You may enjoy the excellent discussions and our monthly "mentoring moments" by joining the listserv: email listserv@lists.apa.org with the following in the body of the message: SUBSCRIBE DIV40WIN YourFirstName YourLastName.

The WINners Box

The Division 40 WIN subcommittee is pleased to honor Melissa Amick, Ph.D., in this issue of the "WINners Box." Dr. Amick received her doctorate from Boston University, where she was a student in clinical psychology with a focus in neuropsychology. After her clinical internship in geriatric neuropsychology at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Brockton, MA, she was a post-doctoral fellow in clinical neuropsychology and medical rehabilitation at the Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University, in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior.

Following her post-doctoral fellowship, Dr. Amick served as a staff neuropsychologist at Memorial Hospital of RI in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, providing inpatient and

outpatient neuropsychological assessments and psychotherapy for patients treated within the Neurology and Medical Rehabilitation services. She served as Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University. Starting in 2009, she joined VA Boston Healthcare System (VABHS) and is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the Boston University School of Medicine. She provides assessments and psychotherapy to individuals living with the chronic effects of spinal cord injury (SCI). The majority of her clinical work is provided in the inpatient SCI rehabilitation unit focused on supporting veterans with new injuries as well as veterans coping with aging and SCI. Since she returned to Boston, Dr. Amick has served as a primary supervisor for practicum students, psychology interns, and post-doctoral fellows. She provides regular didactics to psychiatry and physical medicine and rehabilitation residents.

As impressive as her clinical work is Dr. Amick's very active program of research, which is rooted in the examination of the functional consequences of neurodegenerative disease. She has expertise in the relation of sensory (visual) and cognitive dysfunction especially in age-related neurodegenerative disease, and has conducted noteworthy studies of driving as a functional outcome. As an Investigator with the Translational Research Center for Traumatic Brian Injury and Stress Related Disorders at the VABHS, Dr. Amick has now expanded her work into deployment-related psychiatric diagnoses. She has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles in these areas. Dr. Amick's research has been funded by the Military Suicide Research Consortium, the Veterans Health Administration Rehabilitation Research & Development, the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, the National Academy of Neuropsychology, and Sigma Xi, the scientific honor society. Dr. Amick is actively involved in the protection of human subjects in research, serving as acting Co-Chair of VABHS's Institutional Review Board. She has been a member of the IRB since 2013.

Dr. Amick is known for her active sense of humor, playfulness, and pursuit of fun, which makes for lively supervision and collegial meetings and helps her connect strongly with those who come to her for clinical services and research participation. She is also an avid reader of fiction and is likely to provide you with an unsolicited reading list.

It is with great pleasure that the WIN committee recognizes Dr. Amick's numerous accomplishments as an early career neuropsychologist, and we look forward to her future achievements.

If you would like to highlight your work or that of a colleague, please make your submission to incoming WIN Chair Krista Lisdahl, Ph.D. at medinak@uwm.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AWARDS

AWARDS

A BIG CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the 2017 SCN SAC Pilot Awards!

Awards and Pilot Research Grants

The pilot research study awards program was led this year by Dr. Karin Hoth. The SAC committee received 12 grant proposals, each reviewed by two SCN committee members and discussed/voted on by the committee as a whole.

Amery Treble-Barna, PhD
University of Pittsburgh
"Epigenetic Influences on Neurobehavioral Recovery Following Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury"

Brian Kavanaugh, PsyD
Brown University/Bradley Hospital
"Cognitive Training to Treat Neural, Cognitive and Behavioral Levels of Executive Functioning Deficits in Children with Anxiety/Depressive Disorder"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Election Results

We would like to welcome Dr. Mark Bondi to the role of SCN President, a position he assumed following the 2016 APA Convention.

We wish to thank SCN Past-President, Dr. Jennifer Vasterling, for her leadership and hard work over the past year.

Congratulations to the 2017 APA President, Dr. Antonio Puente!
Dr. Puente is a past President of our division and has worked tirelessly throughout his career to advocate for the field of psychology as well as the specialty of neuropsychology.

Many of us have worked closely with Dr. Puente for the past decade in a number of arenas, and have witnessed firsthand his dedication towards our specialty and field. He has selflessly represented psychology in the national healthcare arena for many years, and his ideas come from his real understanding of the worlds of healthcare, science and education. He is a strong leader who has the requisite skills to lead APA during these changing times.

It's been over 50 years since we have had a neuropsychologist elected to the position of president of the APA. As the largest division of the association, we are excited about the opportunity to have our community represented at APA's top leadership position.

Upcoming Elections

For the year of 2018, SCN is electing: A President-Elect, a Representative to Council (possibly two positions), a Treasurer, a Secretary, and a Member-At-Large

For Nominations: Nominations, including self-nominations for future SCN positions should be sent to: Amy Jak, PhD, current Secretary for the SCN at ajak@ucsd.edu.

Federal Advocacy

Date: June 15, 2017

To: SPTA and Division Federal Advocacy Coordinators, and APAGS Coordinators

From: Doug Walter, J.D., Associate Executive Director for Government Relations,
American Psychological Association Practice Organization

Cc: Katherine Nordal, Ph.D., Executive Director for Professional Practice
SPTA Directors of Professional Affairs
SPTA Executive Directors
CAPP
APAPO Board of Directors

Re: TRICARE Reimbursement Cuts: Information and Request for Feedback

After hearing from members who see TRICARE patients, APA Practice Organization staff spoke with Defense Health Agency (DHA) psychologists and sent the following **letter on June 12th** to the DHA Director regarding proposed reimbursement rate cuts by Humana and Health Net Federal Services (HNFS), the new contracted TRICARE mental health insurance carriers. APAPO has serious concerns about the impact these cuts will have on psychologists providing these services, network adequacy and access to mental health care for highly-stressed military families. Here is a brief update about our advocacy, and we invite you to let us know about any TRICARE or TRICARE contractor issues you are experiencing, by emailing our Director of Military and Veterans Health Policy, Dr. Heather Kelly, at **hkelly@apa.org**.

Of course, every provider makes his or her own independent decision on whether to participate in a network, but as you know, for some providers, providing services at lower rates is not financially feasible and our data and experience demonstrate that contract actions often result in significant disruptions to patient care, limited networks and limited access for patients. We would like to hear from TRICARE providers about your recent experiences. For example, feedback we have received from psychologists attempting to independently negotiate with TRICARE contractors includes reports about:

- South and North TRICARE region psychologists receiving new contracts from Humana that included a 30% reduction from CHAMPUS rates currently in effect. The new contracts do not go into effect until October 1st or in some cases January 1st, but many psychologists were given only two weeks to consider whether to participate under the new contracts.
- South region psychologists being either outright rebuffed or told to wait until contractors can assess adequacy of the network at a later time. Others received emails indicating that the rate cut was "a mistake" and would not be implemented.
- Psychologists in the West region being offered similar contracts from HNFS.
- Psychologists in the North region being notified that Humana has abandoned the rate cut for the time being, with automatic transfer of providers from HNFS to Humana without any action needed.

In our letter to Vice Admiral Bono, APAPO asked that DHA assess whether Humana and HNFS are complying with network adequacy obligations, and urged DHA to consider more accurate markers of adequacy, including the number of psychologists a beneficiary has to call before getting an appointment, how long it takes to get an appointment, and how far the beneficiary has to travel for treatment. We asked that TRICARE order vendors to be clear in communications with providers regarding the status and changes under the agreements and review the contract selection process to ensure that criteria in addition to cost savings are considered when selecting vendors to manage the mental health benefit. APAPO got an immediate response back from DHA Director Bono that she has tasked her staff with investigating these issues, and we will provide updates as we hear more from DHA. In the meantime, please feel free to share your provider experiences with Dr. Kelly and we will keep you updated regarding our APAPO advocacy.

SCN MEMBERSHIP COMMITEE

Chair:	Jennifer Koop, PhD ABBP-CN (jkoop@mcw.edu) Medical College of Wisconsin
Members:	Beth Springate, PhD, ABPP-CN (bspringate@uchc.edu) University of Connecticut David Marshall, PhD, AABPP-CN (davimars@med.umich.edu) University of Michigan
EC Rep:	Larua Boxley, PhD, (laura.boxley@osumc.edu) The Ohio State University
Student Rep:	Cara Levitch (clevitch@fordham.edu) Fordham University

All are new committee members as of this year. Given this, the year has been one of transition for the Membership Committee. The ECPNC subcommittee has done an excellent job in increasing EC membership within SCN. The Membership Committee will continue to support these activities, but also re

-focus on membership retention and increasing the mid-career+ membership cohort. Some agenda items include creation of Members only content for the SCN webpage and development of a mentorships program, the latter led by the ECPNC committee at this time.

Jennifer Koop, PhD, ABPP
SCN Membership Committee Chair

Membership in APA is not a requirement to join SCN.

- If you are an APA Member, Associate, or Fellow, you can **renew your membership in both APA and SCN** online at http://www.apa.org/membership/renew.aspx
- If you are a Student Affiliate, International Affiliate, or do not have membership in APA, you can **renew your membership in SCN** online at http://memforms.apa.org/apa/cli/divapp/
- **New members** can complete our membership application online at http://memforms.apa.org/apa/cli/divapp/
- A hardcopy of our membership application may be obtained at https://www.scn40.org/membership-committee.html
- **Individuals who are in their first two years post-degree** are eligible for reduced membership fees of **$20 per year**. Eligible individuals are invited to complete our paper application (download at https://www.scn40.org/uploads/4/7/2/2/47220679/scn_membership_application_july_2014.pdf) as these reduced membership fees CANNOT be processed electronically.

Many thanks for renewing your membership in SCN for 2017!