Dear members of the Society for Clinical Neuropsychology,

I think I speak for most of us when I say, “Phew! What a year!”

I recently read *Letter to My Daughter* (Random House, 2008), a book of essays by American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist, Maya Angelou, dedicated to the “daughter she never had but sees all around her” in the “… Black and White, Jewish and Muslim, Asian, Spanish speaking, Native Americans and Aleut…fat and thin and pretty and plain, gay and straight, educated and unlettered” women of the world.

A line in one of the essays that really resonated with me speaks to our power to decide how our challenges and successes impact and define us: “You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them”.

In a year where we have mourned the deaths of so many named and unnamed Americans, watched the effects of global warming in wildfires and deadly hurricanes, cancelled vacations and overseen remote learning, mastered Zoom and missed holiday gatherings with our families, celebrated the first Black, South Asian, woman elected to vice president, and rejoiced in the development and roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccines, I think we can be proud of the strength and resilience we have all shown.

In this newsletter’s pages, I invite you to read SCN President Heather Belanger’s report on what has been a very active year for the SCN Executive Committee and committee and subcommittee members; an invited tribute to Paul Green written by his friend and colleague, Roger Gervais; an article on the state of women in neuropsychology featuring interviews with the chairs of NAN and SCN’s women’s leadership committees; and updates on the recent activities, accomplishments, and opportunities provided by our committee and subcommittee chairs.

It has been my pleasure to oversee six issues of this newsletter, but it is time for me to turn over the reins to someone new. If you are interested in this twice a year commitment or have colleagues who would like to serve the organization and share its work with the membership, please contact me at deborah.hoffnung@alegent.org

Deborah S. Hoffnung, PhD ABPP
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Past Issues of the Division 40 Newsletter, Division 40 Executive Committee meeting minutes, membership information, and a link to join SCN are all available online at the Division 40 Website:

[https://www.scn40.org/](https://www.scn40.org/)

SCN Newsletter 40 is the official publication of The Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (SCN), Division 40 of the American Psychological Association.

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First, let me start by saying that I’m incredibly honored to serve as your President this year. It is a privilege to work on your behalf alongside the esteemed group of professionals who serve on the SCN Executive Committee – truly one of the great honors of my career. And, despite the challenges presented by the year 2020, your representatives have forged ahead and made significant progress for our organization and our field. I’m delighted to share with you some of the most pertinent accomplishments to date. Ever a fan of lists, I bring them to you as such:

1) Of great import, we were able to gain an additional seat on the APA Council of Representatives. We now have re-gained the 5th seat that we lost a few years ago, thanks to you apportioning your ballots to SCN. THANK YOU! Now, only one other division (39 – Psychoanalysis) has this many seats on Council. This gives us an important voice within “big APA”.

2) Additionally, I am pleased to report that the two APA bylaw amendments (both supported by SCN) were passed – giving graduate student members the ability to vote and giving Ethnic Minority Psychological Associations a seat on Council.

3) Earlier in the year, SCN formed a Strategic Planning Advisory Group and began the arduous task of taking a deep look inward (and outward). We are so fortunate to have such an accomplished and diverse group working on our behalf! Be on the lookout for updates about their activities in the coming year, which may include focus groups among our stakeholders. I want to thank these individuals for their past and continued hard work, as we look for ways to enhance the ‘value added’ by SCN and continue to develop our unique identity amidst so many other professional organizations. If you see any of these individuals, please thank them (in a socially distanced way of course):

   Lynette Abrams-Silva, PhD, Co-Chair
   Scott Sperling, PsyD, Co-Chair
   Paula Shear, PhD
   Tony Stringer, PhD, ABPP
   Samantha Stern, PhD
   Emily Duggan, PhD
   Rebecca Ready, PhD, ABPP
   Justin Miller, PhD
   David LeChuga, PhD
   Justin Karr, PhD
   Shawn McClintock, PhD

4) I am also excited to announce that Dr. Laura Zahodne from the University of Michigan has been awarded the Levitt Early Career Award – congratulations to her!

5) I hope you will consider submitting your work for the 2021 APA Convention. Last year’s virtual meeting had some impressive statistics:

   14,000+ attendees
17% increase from 2019 meeting
320% increase in students attending
307% increase in non-members attending
167% increase in attendees from other countries (101 countries represented).

6) In concert with the IOPC, SCN submitted formal objections to CMS concerning its latest proposed rule that would allow non-physician practitioners (NPPs) such as PA’s and Nurse Practitioners to supervise/perform neuropsychological testing services. Unfortunately, even though CMS was sympathetic to our concerns, it was decided that it would be left to states to determine if these activities were within the NPP scope of licensure for that state. I would encourage you to bring this to the attention of your state psychological associations.

7) In 2020, SCN provided input on an amicus brief completed in Michigan related to third party observation (TPO).

8) SCN also provided comments on APA’s Guidelines for the Evaluation of Dementia and Age-Related Cognitive Change.

9) Finally, one of my goals as SCN president has been to call greater attention to neuropsychologists within the larger APA community. Despite being the largest Division within APA, one rarely sees Neuropsychology highlighted in any way, or recognized via the many awards APA conveys. Dr. Rachel Keelan, our APA Relations Chair, and I will be working on changing that this year

These are just a few of the things we’ve been working on. While much of this effort goes on behind the scenes, rest assured the Executive Committee, committee chairs, and committee members are hard at work on your behalf, and that we are moving ahead with several important agenda items.

I hope this newsletter finds you well. With all the recent chaos hopefully behind us as a nation, I sincerely hope we can refocus our attention to the discipline and career that we love (and to making the world a better place, one Wechsler Memory Scale at a time).

Heather G. Belanger, PhD, ABPP
heather.belanger.ctr@socom.mil
Women in Neuropsychology: Where Things Stand

In their 2010 article in *Clinical Neuropsychology* (24(3): 481-492), Hilsabeck and Martin called attention to gender inequality in our profession, and specifically, the shortage of women in leadership roles. In addition to highlighting factors contributing to gender bias and disparity, the authors offered practical advice on how to overcome barriers, and emphasized the role professional organizations could play in promoting the advancement of women within the field.

In the Summer/Fall 2020 issue of the SCN newsletter (Volume 39, No. 2), the WINner’s box provided a reflection on the 20th anniversary of the *Society for Clinical Neuropsychology/Division 40 Women in Neuropsychology (WIN) subcommittee*, formed in 2000 as a “response to the stunningly small number of women in leadership roles across the specialty more broadly, and Division 40 more specifically.” (p.15).

Soon after the formation of the WIN subcommittee, the *National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN)* appointed a task force in 2006 to explore how the organization could better meet the needs of its women members; and in the years that have followed, the *NAN Women in Leadership (WIL) committee* has continued its work to encourage and mentor female neuropsychologists to become leaders within NAN and in the field.

As the number of women in neuropsychology has grown, WIN and WIL have continued to champion diversity, representation, and the advancement of women in the profession; but their work, and ours, is not done.

In the interview that follows, I asked the current chairs of WIN and WIL, Rachael Ellison and Nyaz Didehbani, to reflect on the gains women have made in neuropsychology and the challenges and obstacles that remain.

**How have WIL and WIN, specifically, played a part in encouraging and promoting the election and appointment of more women into leadership roles in our field?**

**Dr. Didehbani:** The mission of WIL is to educate, encourage, promote, and mentor women into leadership roles within NAN and the field of neuropsychology. WIL has several active initiatives to foster women leaders. One of the many highlights of the NAN conference is the WIL social event that is dedicated to the promotion of women and future leaders. The social event allows for social networking and highlights keynote speakers typically speaking on women issues. The event is also centered around students and future leaders by promoting our Edith Kaplan scholars, winners of an essay contest that focuses on the themes of women and leadership.

WIL also supports a sponsorship program during the NAN conference where prominent leaders in the field of neuropsychology volunteer their time to meet with students. This allows the students to connect directly with a neuropsychologist, who not only offers advice on how to build a career in neuropsychology, but also helps students find opportunities in line with their interests, such as committee involvement and leadership roles.

**Dr. Ellison:** WIN has a number of past and ongoing initiatives that aim to encourage and promote the election and appointment of more women into leadership, not just into Division 40 (the Society for Clinical Neuropsychology; SCN), but more broadly into the field of neuropsychology in general. Looking back, WIN was one of the first committees to pull together any type of programming for women to talk about what it was like for women specifically in psychology/neuropsychology, acknowledging and taking initial steps to address the unique challenges of how best to succeed as a psychologist in what was a male dominated profession. Historically, WIN’s social hours at INS have been a wonderful place for women in neuropsychology to form connections and network in the field, to help move forward in their career. Specifically, last year at INS, WIN’s social hour was so well attended that we overflowed out of the event.
space!

More recently, WIN led a strategic push over our listserv to strongly encourage women to apply for leadership positions in the field, such as for Fellow status. Other WIN programming such as our WINner’s Box (featuring exceptional women who have made noteworthy contributions to the field of neuropsychology), and Mentoring Moments (sharing professional development-related wisdom), both aim to highlight women in neuropsychology and draw attention to their accomplishments. WIN also facilitates programming specifically aimed at encouraging and promoting early-career neuropsychologists and trainees through our Milestone Moments, as well as our recent Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Advocacy (IDEA) Award (recognizing women and gender non-binary trainees in neuropsychology who demonstrate exemplary work in advocacy or service in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion).

**Why is it still necessary to raise awareness about gender bias and disparity and facilitate the advancement of women?**

Dr. Didehbani: The field of neuropsychology has seen an increase in the number of female neuropsychologists and student trainees, but there is still much room for growth in equal pay, leadership roles, and academic research roles. For example, academic journals are still dominated by male editors, and women in science receive less grant money than male peers. An article in JAMA revealed that a first time male lead investigator was awarded an average of $41,000 more than females. Other more subtle disparities exist in the predominance of male photos in core medical textbooks. Women and individuals of BIPOC need greater representation from simple photos to leadership representation. It is of utmost importance to continue to advocate and raise awareness on gender biases and other disparities to continue our forward momentum.

Dr. Ellison: Although neuropsychology has seen an explosion in the number of female neuropsychologists as well as trainees, neuropsychology as a field is predominately comprised of white women, which is a disparity that also needs to be systematically addressed. Furthermore, while the field as a whole is now comprised of more women than men, this has not translated to equal representation by women, and specifically BIPOC women, in leadership roles. We as a field must not become complacent, and must continue to work to raise awareness, advocate, support, and mentor emerging and early career women, particularly BIPOC women, to promote advancement into leadership positions within neuropsychology and the field of psychology in general. This goal is a current focus and top strategic priority for WIN.

**Are there lessons to be learned from women’s advances in the field of neuropsychology that can be applied to address the underrepresentation of cultural and linguistic minorities and persons with intersectional identities in leadership positions in professional organizations and Fellow status attainment?**

Dr. Didehbani: This area is an important priority for WIL, and we are collaborating with NAN’s Culture and Diversity Committee on some initiatives. Although women are making great strides and are advancing in the field, we have not seen that same growth across racial and ethnic groups. This is an area that needs special attention, and we need to look at the root issues and incorporate what we have learned in promoting women’s advancement to enhance diversity in our field beyond gender. The WIL sponsorship program has been successful in matching mentors and mentees and we can try to apply the same concept for other underrepresented groups. I think greater involvement with student organizations and reaching out to both undergraduate and graduate programs, especially in underserved areas, to educate on neuropsychology and offer mentoring for undeserved individuals will help open doors and create opportunity. We need to address these gaps, including any gaps we as a field have on diversity training, to better serve individuals of BIPOC.

**Do you have any literature-based recommendations for women neuropsychologists interested in furthering their personal and professional growth?**

Dr. Ellison: The Clinical Neuropsychologist (TCN) had a wonderful special issue last year, Gender and Career
Advancement in Clinical Neuropsychology, that I would recommend for women neuropsychologists to further their personal and professional growth. In addition, for general professional growth in neuropsychology, I would be remiss not to mention the KnowNeuropsychology didactic series, as well as the Navigating Neuropsychology (NavNeuro) podcast series. Both of these are phenomenal resources not only for neuropsychology trainees, but also for students interested in learning more about the field of neuropsychology, as well as for established neuropsychologists looking to further their professional growth.

Beyond the scope of neuropsychology-specific content, I would strongly recommend the book *Me and White Supremacy: Combat racism, change the world, and become a good ancestor*, by Layla Saad. To begin to grow professionally in cultural humility as a neuropsychologist, but also personally as a women in a society entrenched in systemic inequality, bias, and racism, this book is a great resource to start with or continue to move forward in that journey. Next on my own reading list is another book that has come highly recommended, *Hood Feminism: Notes from the women that a movement forgot*, by Mikki Kendall.

Who and/or what has helped you development most as a clinician, educator, mentor, and/or leader?

**Dr. Ellison:** In WIN’s advocacy response to the paper by AlShebli et al. in Nature Communications, “The association between early career informal mentorship in academic collaborations and junior author performance,” we encouraged individuals to honor their past and current women mentors by publicly celebrating and posting about them. At the time, I called out and honored some of the amazing women mentors I’ve had. These women have truly been instrumental in shaping me both personally and professionally as a clinician, educator, mentor and leader.

First, **Dr. Amy Jak**, my supervisor on clinical internship, is someone I try to model my own mentoring style off of. She has a wonderful way of seamlessly blending mentorship on cases/clinical work with professional development, and she created an environment for me to gain confidence and grow in my skills as both a clinician and emerging professional. **Dr. Amanda Urban**, my formal mentor on clinical fellowship at Hines VA, always made me feel safe to discuss anything, professionally and personally, and I knew I could always count on her to help me advocate for myself. **Dr. Anne Wiley**, one of my other supervisors in my neuropsychology rotations on fellowship, pushed me in my report writing in a way no other mentor/supervisor had done before. **Dr. Monica Stika**, although only one year above me and a second year fellow when I was in my first year of fellowship, was someone I truly looked up to and followed her lead and example for everything, from how to conquer the EPPP to thinking about the board certification process. Although not a neuropsychologist, I must acknowledge **Dr. Kathryn Grant**, my graduate school mentor, who took me under her wing when my first research advisor transferred institutions after my first year of graduate school. There have been so many other exceptional women that have mentored me formally and informally over the years, but I also have to re-thank **Dr. Katie Montry**, whom I crossed paths with when I was a fellow and she was an intern. She gave me the courage to write my own public post honoring these amazing women mentors after I saw her heartfelt post in response to the initial WIN call.

**Dr. Didehbani:** I have been extremely fortunate to have had exceptional mentors, both male and female in the field of neuropsychology who have helped shape my professional career. However, the most influential person in my life is my mother, **Mahnaz Mirzaie**, a single mother with a single daughter, who was a strong female immigrant born into a country where the male voice dominates. She fled her home country with her immediate family and became a strong influential woman. She created, edited, and published a magazine focused on controversial political issues and the needs of her Iranian culture. She spoke out against injustice in ways that could have threatened her life when she returned home. She spoke her mind and her truth, and fought for liberties of women and other underserved individuals. She encouraged me to reach beyond expectations, and she was a strong believer in higher education. Even though money was tight, she encouraged me to apply to universities regardless of the cost and always said “the money will come.” I am forever grateful and indebted to her sacrifices.

In the field of neuropsychology, my greatest mentor and guide has been **Dr. Munro Cullum**. His mentorship and sponsorship opened doors and opportunities that have led to many of my current roles. He helped me gain clinical skills and research confidence, and spent the time to shape my career. I am also incredibly thankful for **Dr. Donna**
Nyaz Didehbani, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at UT Southwestern Medical Center, and the current chair of the NAN Women in Leadership Committee. Rachael Ellison, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology in the doctoral training program at Illinois Institute of Technology, and a clinical neuropsychologist in private practice with the Chicago Neuropsychology Group. She is the current chair of the SCN Women in Neuropsychology Committee.

SUBMITTED BY READERS

Virginia T. Gallagher
Clinical Psychology Doctoral Candidate, Neuropsychology Emphasis
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

A version of the essay that follows received ‘special interest’ designation in the 2020 Student Member Essay contest sponsored by the NAN Women in Leadership Committee.

Women in Neuropsychology: Past and Future from the Perspective of a Trainee

On a chilly 30-degree afternoon, I sprinted out of an internship interview at a prestigious academic medical center where the neuropsychology faculty, interns, and interviewees were all (majority white) women. I raced to nearby FedEx before closing to ship 90 ounces of pumped breast milk back to my newborn son before catching a flight to my next interview. Reflecting on this experience, I am struck by how far women in neuropsychology have come and yet how far we have to go.

On this 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, I think about the women I have had the pleasure to know in this field whose trailblazing efforts, sacrifice, and dedication solidified women as respected professionals in neuropsychology. Sandy Weintraub, for example, has worked tirelessly throughout her career and has demanded excellence and dedication from herself and her female trainees, which has propelled women’s status in the field. I also think about early career female neuropsychologists – Olivia Harner, Madison Berl, Jana Wingo, and Tamar Gefen – who modeled that you can be an excellent clinical scientist and raise a family simultaneously. They provided valuable female mentorship, ranging from the wise advice to save mood questionnaires for when one really needs to vomit in the early days of pregnancy, to how to negotiate a salary when the time comes. I also think of male mentors – like Jim Reilly – who are enthusiastic, genuine supporters of women in the field, by equally promoting professional growth while celebrating personal milestones, like marriage and motherhood. The current status of women in neuropsychology was built on the backs of these integral characters.

According to Sweet et al. (2016), women currently comprise 2/3 of post-doctoral neuropsychology trainees and over half of practicing neuropsychologists. While increased representation is certainly something to celebrate, there is ample room to improve the opportunities, retention, and promotion of female neuropsychologists.
First, a significant gender-based wage gap persists in which men earn 40% more, on average, compared to female neuropsychologists (though this does not account for years in the field; Sweet et al., 2016). Workshops on salary negotiation and promotion of women into more positions of leadership may help rectify this gap.

Second, only “10% of practicing neuropsychologists are ethnic minorities, which is grossly discordant with the ethnic minority population nationally of 39% (Sweet et al., 2016; U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). Recruiting more women of color to the field may be facilitated by paying all undergraduate and post-baccalaureate research assistants. It is unreasonable to expect young adults who are not supported by parents to work for free for admission to graduate school. Additionally, eliminating standardized testing for graduate admission, which neuropsychologists know disproportionately disadvantages underrepresented minorities, would eliminate an additional barrier to entry. Further, de-stigmatizing the utilization of phone or video-based interviews for internship and fellowship may benefit trainees of all races/ethnicities who cannot afford to spend $1,500 on travel costs per application cycle (Keilin, 2018).

Third, women are more likely than men to work on a part-time basis and cite personal/family obstacles to income and job satisfaction (Sweet et al., 2016). There are reasonable practices and policies that would empower female neuropsychologists to have children and retain full time, satisfying employment if that is their wish. The pandemic has normalized flexible, non-traditional hours. Continuing to support flexible scheduling as clinical, research, and training responsibilities allow, may enable parents to optimize success at work and at home. Can a report be submitted at 9pm instead of 4pm so a parent can pick up her daughter from school or attend her soccer game?

Finally, with increased competitiveness for admission to clinical psychology doctoral programs (<1% acceptance rate is often reported among competitive PhD programs), aspiring trainees often spend more years on research and clinical work between undergraduate and graduate school, resulting in older age at the time of completion of fellowship among neuropsychologists. With rates of infertility significantly increasing by 32-years-old and maternal/infant complications by 35-years-old (considered “advanced maternal age”), we need to support women having babies during training in neuropsychology (Vander Borght & Wyns, 2018). Unlike female physicians, the starting salary for a female neuropsychologist after nearly a decade of training is not sufficient to cover the cost of fertility treatments. With a family history of infertility, my husband and I decided to start trying to grow our family during graduate school, which resulted in the birth of our son in the fall of my 5th year. While one male supervisor stated, “we usually suggest you wait until post-doc to have a baby,” the overwhelming majority of mentors/supervisors were explicitly supportive.

In addition to encouraging words, there are specific actions that would facilitate the success of women who choose to have children during neuropsychological training. Supervisors and internship/fellowship sites conducting interviews might consider asking all trainees if they need accommodations for pumping, nursing, or other family demands. I often pumped in the bathroom of practica and potential internship sites out of fear of inconveniencing others or drawing negative attention to the competing roles in my life as a trainee and mother. I encourage leaders in the field to also consider increasing the number of combined internship-fellowship options for aspiring neuropsychologists. The monetary and non-monetary costs of interview travel (>1500, missed maternal-infant bonding time, significant interruption to clinical training and research activities) as well as moving (>1000, time spent finding new childcare when daycare classrooms often fill up 8-12 months prior to start, the occupational and financial costs of spousal job change) twice in 2 years is not consistent with a family-friendly model of neuropsychological training (Keilin, 2018).

As women become the majority gender in the field, women will rise to more positions of leadership in institutions and national organizations. Women will have the ability to leverage their agency to advocate for policies and practices that empower other women. To this end, I am grateful for those who have boldly solidified the status of women in the field of neuropsychology and hopeful about improving the opportunities and well-being of female neuropsychologists in the future.

References


In this issue of the newsletter, I am honored to share an invited tribute penned by his friend and colleague, Dr. Roger Gervais, honoring Dr. Paul Green, who passed away on August 15, 2020.

With the passing of Dr. Paul Green, the field of clinical neuropsychology lost a true scientist practitioner whose contribution has had a wide-ranging, transformative influence on the practice of clinical neuropsychology. Paul hailed from Manchester, England, where he completed his BSc, MSc, and PhD degrees in interhemispheric transfer in schizophrenia and abnormal asymmetries of speech comprehension in psychotic and cerebral-lesions patients. He published extensively on the topic of speech comprehension and abnormal interhemispheric integration and associated phenomena in schizophrenia. This research led to the development of the Auditory Comprehension Test (ACT).

Paul was recruited to the Alberta Hospital, Edmonton in 1982. After several years, he entered independent practice as a clinical neuropsychologist and began developing the suite of tests he is most known for, the Word Memory Test (WMT), the Medical Symptom Validity Test (MSVT), and the Nonverbal Medical Symptom Validity Test (NV-MSVT), which are among the most widely used performance validity tests (PVTs) in North America and Europe. His interest in performance validity testing arose out of the growing awareness in the early 1990s of the need to objectively evaluate the validity of neuropsychological test results obtained in the context of personal injury, medical disability, and other forensic-related assessments where there was the potential for response bias associated with secondary gain or disability incentives. However, while it might be thought that his work was oriented principally toward forensic purposes and detecting exaggerated or fabricated cognitive symptoms or other disabilities, his primary concern was to obtain accurate test data upon which to base valid clinical diagnoses.

Paul deeply respected research and scholarship, but he was not interested in pursuing a university-based academic career. Even so, he maintained an active research and development focus throughout the course of his clinical work, publishing 49 manuscripts, abstracts, and manuals. Through his WMT user group and his test publishing company, Green's Publishing, Paul generously provided countless hours of technical and clinical support over many years to fellow psychologists in the use and interpretation of his tests.

Over the 25 years we practiced together, I also knew Paul on a deeply personal level. He enjoyed travelling, golf, and chess. He obtained his private airplane pilot’s license and would tell the story of a competition at the local flight club where he and my brother – pilot and copilot – flew simulated bombing runs aiming 5-pound bags of flour at the target on the runway. Some friends and colleagues might also recall his earlier years when he engaged in volunteer fundraising for the Kiwanis club, dressed as a clown. Paul loved his family. He was deeply committed to his wife Pam, and extremely proud of his two daughters and four grandchildren. In his final year, he discovered a talent for painting, producing reproductions of various artists, especially van Gogh, which he gifted to close colleagues. Paul was a complex, multifaceted, and gifted man who made a profound contribution to the field of neuropsychology and touched the lives of numerous friends and colleagues. He will be sorely missed.
In this column, we continue to focus on the APA journal, *Neuropsychology*, as we highlight the clinical, research, and professional activities and accomplishments of Division 40 members.

In addition to editor **Dr. Keith Yeates**, associate editors of *Neuropsychology* who are also SCN/Division 40 members include **Drs. Rosemary Fama** and **Steven Paul Woods**.

Members of the editorial board who are also SCN/Division 40 members include:

**Ida Sue Baron, Michael Basso, Adam Brickman, Donna Broshek, Tania Giovannetti, Krista Lisdahl, Luis Medina, Virginie Patt, Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe, Michael Tomas, Elizabeth Twamley, Jennifer Vasterling, Keenan Walker, Christina Wierenga,** and **John Woodard**.

The January 2021 special issue of *Neuropsychology* (Volume 35, No. 1), **The Neuropsychology of Daily Life**
[https://psycnet.apa.org/PsyCARTICLES/journal/neu/35/1](https://psycnet.apa.org/PsyCARTICLES/journal/neu/35/1), gives much needed attention to topics fundamental to our understanding of brain-behavior relationships: the intersection of cognition and everyday functioning, and the interruption of functioning with neurological injury and disease.

Featured articles include **Giovannetti, T. et al’s** examination of theoretical models that aim to explain the neurocognitive processes that underlie everyday functioning and its breakdown; and **Kraal, A. et al’s** scrutiny of the concept of ‘functional reserve’, or the difference between observed functional abilities and those predicted by brain structure, cognitive performance, and demographics. This special issue also includes **Tran, T. et al’s** investigation into the prevalence and functional correlates of cognitive impairment in depression; and **Jones, W. E., Benge J. F, & Skullin, M. K.’s** review of 20 years of prospective memory intervention research targeting the preservation of independent functioning in older adults; together with a number of other important topics that are explored.

Guest editor, **Dr. Steven Paul Woods**, Professor of Psychology at the University of Houston, shared this about overseeing the special issue: “It was exciting to see a diverse group of international investigators and reviewers come together to help advance our understanding of the many ways in which cognition can influence aspects of daily life across different clinical groups. It was also both humbling and inspiring to draw clearer beads on the many moving targets for future work in this complex area of investigation, particularly in the domains of technology and intervention.”

**Members of SCN/Division 40 are reminded to consider the journal, Neuropsychology, for their best work.** As editor, Dr. Yeates, noted in the interview we featured in the last issue of the newsletter (Volume 39, No. 2), “The journal’s mission is to present basic and applied clinical research to stimulate systematic investigation into brain-behavior relationships and to improve clinical practice. As an APA journal, it should be a prime vehicle for Division 40 members to advance the science of neuropsychology.” (p.9)
The Publications and Communications Committee is pleased to oversee the Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (SCN) newsletter, website, social media, NeuroBlast emails, and the SCN listserv. We are grateful to have Dr. Deborah Hoffnung as our Newsletter Editor, who coordinates our publication of two newsletters per year. Dr. Laura Boxley continues to manage our social media presence, promoting neuropsychology on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn platforms. Claire Speelman has begun helping with membership communications, and we have also welcomed Julia Maietta and Melissa Levy, as part of the Student Leadership Development Program.

SCN continues to be the largest neuropsychological group on Facebook, with over 10,000 followers. If you are on Facebook, be sure to “like” the SCN and you will receive SCN updates in your feed. If you are on Twitter, please follow our Twitter feed, SCN NeuroTweets (@APADivision40), and you will be among our 3,600 followers. Doing so will also spread the word about clinical neuropsychology to your acquaintances.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, our website continues to highlight a number of valuable resources for practicing clinical neuropsychology in these unprecedented times. We are extremely thankful for Dr. Rob Davis, who has been managing our website content for the past year. We will continue to use our digital presence to provide resources to neuropsychologists, and we welcome input from our members. If you have any requests for new content or additional thoughts about how we can better serve the communication needs of SCN, please email us at communications@scn40.org.

Additionally, please note that our committee is recruiting new members! We have a number of positions opening up this year, including committee chair, newsletter editor, communications officer, and social media editor. If you are interested in joining the Publications and Communications Committee, please let me know. We hope you’ll consider joining our team!

David Kaufman, PhD, ABPP
david.kaufman@health.slu.edu

As an organization, SCN promotes research, education, and clinical services to advance the field of neuropsychology. Some of the excellent benefits of membership include (1) colleagueship through professional networking and mentoring, (2) leadership opportunities on various committees, (3) education and information shared via the SCN newsletter, 5 listservs, and APA programming, (4) social media updates on relevant changes and advancements in clinical practice and research within the field, and (5) promotion and support of diversity in neuropsychology.

SCN currently consists of 3319 members and 1158 student, international, and professional affiliates which represents a 2% increase in overall membership over the past year.

If you would like to join or renew your membership, please follow this link: https://scn40.org/membership-committee/
The Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (SCN; Division 40 of the American Psychological Association; APA) Public Interest Advisory Committee (PIAC) seeks one graduate student member to serve as Student Volunteer for the Women in Neuropsychology (WIN) Subcommittee. See https://scn40.org/piac-win/ for the WIN Mission.

This position requires monthly meetings by phone/email. Appointment is for 3 years (can be renewed once).

Application Instructions: Applications should be received no later than March 15th. To apply, please email a cover letter detailing your interest in the position and your CV to: Michelle Madore, PhD, Society for Clinical Neuropsychology PIAC Chair mmadore@stanford.edu, and Rachael Ellison, Ph.D., SCN WIN Chair, rellison1@iit.edu.

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ETHICS SUBCOMMITTEE

Lynn A. Schaefer, PhD, ABPP
Ethics subcommittee chair

Subcommittee members include Drs. Nicolette Gabel, Brian Yochim, Thomas Farrer, Dede Ukueberuwa, Max Shmidheiser, and Lynn Schaefer. Sarah Aghjayan and Ross Divers are our Student Representatives. Dr. Yochim’s term ended in August 2020; happily, he agreed to serve a second term.

The Subcommittee will be presenting a poster symposium virtually at INS, entitled “Ethical Issues in Clinical Supervision.” We also submitted a proposal for a collaborative symposium at this year’s APA meeting with Divisions 22 and 41 concerning ethical challenges and dilemmas that arise during supervision.

To obtain an ethics consult from the Subcommittee, please contact Dr. Lynn Schaefer at lschaefe@numc.edu

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WOMEN IN NEUROPSYCHOLOGY (WIN) SUBCOMMITTEE

Rachael L. Ellison, PhD,
WIN subcommittee chair

The WINners Box

The Division 40 WIN subcommittee is pleased to honor Vonetta Dotson, PhD, in this issue of the "WINners Box."

Dr. Dotson completed her undergraduate degree (summa cum laude) at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio and then matriculated to the University of Florida, Gainesville, where she completed her Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in clinical psychology (neuropsychology emphasis). Dr. Dotson stayed in Florida to complete her clinical internship at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa. Following completion of her doctorate, Dr. Dotson continued her training at the National Institute on Aging with a post-doctoral fellowship in the Cognition Section, Laboratory of Personality and Cognition. She returned to the University of Florida as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2016. In 2017, Dr. Dotson joined the Georgia State University where she was appointed a tenured Associate Professor. She is the recipient of multiple training awards and honors.
including attaining Fellow status in the APA.

Dr. Dotson is an outstanding researcher and a national leader in research efforts to further our understanding of the maintenance of brain health in relation to aging, particularly in the context of health disparities. Following her post-doctoral training, Dr. Dotson established the Cognitive Neuroscience of Aging and Depression laboratory at the University of Florida. She re-established her laboratory at Georgia State University, which provided more opportunities to pursue her passion related to health disparities. Dr. Dotson's research has been funded throughout her career by the NIH and the McKnight Brain Research Foundation. Her work occurs at the intersection of clinical psychology, neuropsychology and cognitive neuroscience and relies on neuroimaging and behavioral paradigms to understand the underlying neurobiology of depression and its relationship to cognitive and functional deficits in older adults.

In recent years, Dr. Dotson’s research has explored the impact of physical activity on depression-related cognitive and brain changes in the elderly. Among her goals are to discern different phenotypes of depression and the related underlying neurobiology to help to identify targeted treatments. As noted above, she is extending this work to examine the role of health disparities in late life depression, cognition, and the underlying neurobiological correlates.

Dr. Dotson's work has resulted in over 43 peer-reviewed publications in high profile journals in neurology and neuropsychology, book chapters, and multiple peer-reviewed national and international conference presentations. Notably, Dr. Dotson’s work drew the attention of NASA, who sought her out to help with the development of brain health initiatives to mitigate cognitive, mood, and brain changes associated with human space travel.

Dr. Dotson is also an exemplary educator and mentor. Her reputation as a valued mentor is apparent in the caliber of the students she has attracted to her lab. She has served on over 36 masters’ thesis committees and 14 dissertation committees. Dr. Dotson’s students are routinely recruited to top internship and post-doctoral training sites. She is also engaged in classroom teaching and has developed multiple courses and supervised practicum students. In recognition of her expertise as a mentor, Dr. Dotson was invited to be a guest mentor for a NIA funded program, Advancing Diversity in Aging, at San Diego University. As part of that program, Dr. Dotson mentored minority and disadvantaged students, which speaks once again to her commitment to equity.

Finally, Dr. Dotson has been an exemplary good citizen with extensive professional service. She has served on various professional committees continuously since 2007. Her service to the Society for Clinical Neuropsychology and APA is particularly impressive, and includes leadership roles such as: Chair, Program Committee; Member, APA Committee on Aging; and Division 40 Liaison to APA’s Committee on Aging. Dr. Dotson has also served on multiple other committees in various member and representative roles within her academic institutions, the NIH, the International Neuropsychological Society (INS), and the Center for Enhancing Neurocognitive Health, Abilities, Networks, and Community Engagement. In addition to serving on the editorial board of Neuropsychology Review and as an ad hoc reviewer for over 30 journals, she has also served on NIH and NSF review panels/study sections.

Dr. Dotson personifies the best of the younger generation of neuropsychologists with respect to her outstanding research, commitment to addressing racial inequities in her research and mentoring, leadership in training the next generation, and exemplary service. We, the undersigned, are proud to sponsor Dr. Dotson’s well-deserved recognition in the WINners Box.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Kubu (President Elect SCN), Heather Belanger (President, SCN), Rodney Vanderploeg (Past President, SCN) and the SCN WIN subcommittee

If you would like to highlight your work or that of a colleague in an upcoming “WINner’s Box”, please make your submission to the WIN Chair, Dr. Rachael Ellison, at rellison1@iit.edu
The Society for Clinical Neuropsychology’s (APA Div. 40) Education Advisory Committee (EAC) is offering a consultation program to neuropsychology students and trainees (including all those interested in pursuing specialization in neuropsychology) during the week of the 2021 Annual Meeting for the International Neuropsychological Society (February 2-5).

Individuals who are early in their training are especially encouraged to participate. The EAC understands that navigating training in neuropsychology can be a complicated and sometimes confusing endeavor, particularly if you are not housed within a neuropsychology training program or connected with a mentor who is knowledge about the specialty education and training requirements. We also understand that along the path toward becoming a clinical neuropsychologist, one must make many decisions about the education, clinical training, and research experiences pursued. The EAC is therefore offering focused, one-time, 30-minute consultations in an effort to provide support and guidance to students and trainees, and to help you make well-informed decisions that may best position them for success at each stage of training and in their early careers.

Potential consultation topics include, but are certainly not limited to: 1) How to balance clinical versus research efforts, 2) analysis of gaps and strengths in your training and education portfolio, 3) research and grants, 4) leadership and governance opportunities, 5) diversity in training and neuropsychology, 6) wellness as a neuropsychology student/trainee, and 7) securing a mentor or sponsor. Although one consultation topic may be how to secure a mentor/sponsor, the purpose of this consultation program is to be a source of information and is not a long-term mentorship program.

Trainees interested in mentorship are encouraged to reach out to the AACN Student Mentorship Program (https://theaacn.org/students/student-mentorship-program/) or may discuss other options during a consultation.

We encourage those interested in participating in a consultation to send a short email to Div40EAC@gmail.com, 1) expressing your interest, 2) briefly describing the topic you would like to discuss, and 3) your best contact information.

Please submit your requests by 1/29. The EAC will review all requests and a committee member will reach out to you to schedule a consultation.

The Education Advisory Committee is also pleased to announce the following recipients of the APA Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (Division 40) 2020-2021 Dissertation Award:

Zanjbeel Mahmood, SDSU/UCSD
Effects of Motivationally Enhanced Compensatory Cognitive Training in improving modifiable risk factors for Mild Cognitive Impairment

Francesca V. Lopez, UF
Cognitive Correlates of Mitochondrial Function in Older Adults

Jiwandeep S. Kohli, SDSU/UCSD
Characterizing Groupwise and Idiosyncratic Anomalies of Cortical Architecture and Links to Behavior in Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Honorable Mention
ASSOCIATION OF NEUROPSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS & TRAINEES (ANST) SUBCOMMITTEE

Emily Duggan, PhD
ANST subcommittee chair

The Association of Neuropsychology Students & Trainees (ANST) is now accepting applications for several committee member positions:

- Chair
- Communications Officer
- Networking Officer
- Professional Development Officer
- Incoming Programming Officer

Please see the Joining ANST Leadership page on the SCN website for details about the roles and responsibilities of these positions. All positions are a minimum of two years and a maximum of three years.

ANST is the trainee organization of The Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (SCN), Division 40 of the American Psychological Association (APA) and the largest neuropsychology trainee organization in North America. ANST is a subcommittee of SCN’s Education Advisory Committee (EAC). The purpose of ANST is to provide information, support, and access to resources for trainees in clinical neuropsychology, which include undergraduate students with a budding interest in neuropsychology, graduate students, predoctoral interns, and postdoctoral trainees. More information about ANST can be found at here.

Eligibility: Be a student/trainee (graduate student, intern, or postdoc) member of ANST for the duration for the position term.

Application Requirements: Application Form, Cover Letter, CV, and 1 Letter of Recommendation

Application Instructions: Interested applicants should send their application form (available here), cover letter, and CV in a single PDF file to d40anst@gmail.com. In your cover letter, please specify the position(s) you would like to be considered for and your specific interests in the position(s). Also please describe any prior experiences with leadership/service (e.g., graduate, undergraduate, regional/national organizations, community). Letters of recommendation should be sent directly by the writer to d40anst@gmail.com.

All materials are due by 11:59 pm on February 26, 2020. Individuals from underrepresented backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

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**Student Social & Trivia Event**
Thurs. February 4th from 4-6pm PST/ 7-9pm EST

Co-Hosted by the INS Student Liaison Committee (INS SLC), the APA Division 40 Association of Neuropsychology Students & Trainees (ANST), the Asian Neuropsychological Association (ANA), the Hispanic Neuropsychological Society (HNS), & the Society for Black Neuropsychology (SBN)!

Join Us!

https://umich.zoom.us/j/95760204881
The ECNPC is an active community of early career (within 10 years of completion of doctorate degree) neuropsychologists in SCN, and we have continued to grow over the past 6 months! For more information, please visit us online at https://scn40.org/about-join-ecnpc/ or follow our social media pages on Twitter (@Div40ECNPC), Facebook (ECNPC: Early Career Neuropsychologist Committee of SCH), and LinkedIn (https://www.linkedin.com/groups/7018494).

ECNPC Updates

- Are you interested in taking on a new leadership role? The ECNPC is seeking early career neuropsychologists to join our state representative network! We currently have openings for representatives from the following states: AK, CO, CT, DE, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, ME, MN, MS, MT, NV, NY, ND, OK, OR, SC, SD, TX, UT, VT, VA, WI, and WY. Please visit https://scn40.org/representative-network/ for eligibility criteria and more information about the state representative network. Email us at ECNPC.SCN@gmail.com with questions or nominations.

- In spring 2020, the ECNPC successfully released a Needs Assessment Survey to better understand the needs and experiences of neuropsychologists in the early career phase. Data collection was completed in summer 2020. Thank you to all who participated!

ECNPC Committee Member Spotlight

**Shanna Cooper, PhD, ECNPC Programming Officer**

The ECNPC is excited to introduce our newest committee member, Dr. Shanna Cooper! Dr. Cooper will be serving as our Programming Officer from 2020-2023.

1) **Please tell us about yourself and your professional practice.**

I am so thrilled to be representing early career neuropsychologists through service as the ECNPC Programming Officer!

I am a neuropsychologist at VA San Diego and an assistant clinical professor at UC San Diego. My clinical practice includes seeing a range of patients for neuropsychological and psychodiagnostic/personality evaluations; my research focuses on the interplay between cognition and emotion in psychiatric and neurodegenerative disorders. I also have the pleasure of working alongside Dr. Dean C. Delis in his forensic/private practice.

Outside of work, I enjoy long bike rides, hiking in the San Diego sun, hot yoga, black coffee, good wine, and snuggling with my cat.

2) **What is important to you as an early career neuropsychologist?**

I am committed to fostering others’ personal and professional growth and development in the field of neuropsychology, regardless of educational, personal, or demographic background. This is of importance because, as we become more informed and culturally competent neuropsychologists, so too can we provide better clinical care, center patient needs at the focus of our research, and develop policies that better assist those we serve.
3) Why are you a member of SCN?

SCN has been an integral part of my training and early career, and I would not be where I am today without the network of incredible scientists and practitioners that I have met through Division 40. I have been incredibly fortunate to have wonderful mentors who impressed upon me the importance of a professional community, which is fostered through SCN. Many of these mentors continue to provide guidance as I further establish myself as a neuropsychologist. Generously giving of their time and sharing their wealth of knowledge has afforded me opportunities, connections, and experiences that I could not have imagined when I started my studies.

4) What goals do you have for early career programming in the coming years?

The early career phase – especially after fellowship – is notably heterogeneous, given the wide range of skills we develop over many years of training in neuropsychology. I hope to develop programming that speaks to the myriad ways we function – in clinic, research, service, policy, etc. I am also particularly excited to hear from our membership about ideas for collaboration with other APA divisions.

5) What advice do you have for other early career professionals or trainees?

Keep the patient and their family at the forefront of your mind. Regardless of what you do day-to-day (clinical work, teaching, research, etc.), all of the work we do as neuropsychologists directly or indirectly impacts a real person and their loved ones.

**AWARDS COMMITTEE**

_Alicia Ito Ford, PhD_

_Chair_

The SCN Awards Committee is very pleased to announce that Laura Zahodne, PhD from the University of Michigan is the 2021 winner of the _Robert A. and Phyllis Levitt Early Career Award_.

Dr. Zahodne is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology whose work focuses on understanding the modifiable factors in brain and cognitive aging, particularly as they relate to racial/ethnic inequalities in Alzheimer’s disease. The committee reviewed applications from four very talented and dedicated early career neuropsychologists, and we would like to thank all the applicants for their hard work and dedication to the field of neuropsychology.

**Graduate Student Research Scholarship Opportunity:** Graduate students who have completed doctoral candidacy are encouraged to apply for the American Psychological Foundation’s _Benton-Meier Scholarship_, which provides $2,000 to fund an original research project. Applications are due June 1, 2021. Full details can be found at: [https://www.apa.org/apf/funding/benton-meier](https://www.apa.org/apf/funding/benton-meier)

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

_Laura Grande, PhD Chair_

_Pamela Dean, PhD Co-chair_

A reminder from the Program Committee for SCN/Div 40 that the 2021 APA Convention August 12-14 will be a virtual meeting. As APA was working on the specifics of the upcoming conference, the timeline for development of the program shifted this year to later submission deadlines, and the program continues in the planning stages. The Committee is working on creating a terrific program and we look forward to sharing more details soon. The 2020 APA Convention transitioned to virtual last year and was very successful. Attendees rated the virtual program highly and the Convention was accessible to individuals who otherwise could not attend due to distance and/or cost.

_We hope you will join us this August…stay tuned for more details._