

# ABN Newsletter — The Professional Neuropsychologist

*American Board of Professional Neuropsychology*

### Special points of interest:

- New Diplomates Welcomed
- ACPN Activities
- Awards for Outstanding Service
- Passing of Colleagues
- IOPC Activities

### Notes From The Editor:

The second half of 2014 has been a busy one for ABN and its Diplomates. As the leadership team continues its progress under its current president, Dr. John Meyers, we have undertaken a number of projects designed to streamline applications, advocate for neuropsychologists and recruit new members.

We continue to encourage all Diplomates to become involved with the board and committees. Any organization is only as effective as its membership's activity and commitment.

Sue Antell

ABN Newsletter Editor

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### Welcome New ABN Diplomates!

ABN welcomes our newest Diplomates:

Cynthia Bailey  
Sean Brannon  
Steven Greco  
Arthur Joyce

Christine Lloyd  
Elena Ostroy  
Robert Perez  
Mark Sandburg  
Connie Venhaus  
Raphael Wald

We compliment all on a job well done, and appreciate the hard work that several of our new Diplomates have already put in working on committees, volunteering as mentors, and training to become examiners. We invite our new Diplomates to also consider running for office when ABN holds its election of officers in a few months!



ABN looks to stay a "Top Floor" Membership Organization!

## MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVES

ABN recognizes that the health and success of an organization relies entirely upon its ability to not only attract new members, but to groom them for leadership positions within the organization. Our new Membership Committee, headed by Dr. Renee Low, has been actively developing a number of new outreach ac-

tivities to identify and encourage advanced graduate students and early career psychologists to consider the ABN Diploma as the logical next step in their education and credentialing. Stay tuned for more information about these initiatives, and please contact Dr. Low if you would like to help. RLowphd@gmail.com.

## 2015— An ABN Election Year!

ABN will soon be opening nomination for elections to the Board of Directors. Elections will occur over the summer, with newly elected members beginning their terms in No-

vember of 2015. Please consider nominating a fellow ABN member, or even yourself, for open positions. Stay tuned for more details.

*“Continuing ABN’s remarkable successes and contributions to Neuropsychology requires your talent and dedication!”*

## UPDATES/CHANGES TO ABN'S APPLICATION CRITERIA



Applying is a step toward success!

ABN has recently updated its application criteria, to better reflect current training standards in the field of neuropsychology. Current application criteria can be found on the

website, and are now tied to year of graduation. Please feel free to contact ABN's application coordinator with any questions.

## ROLL-OUT OF THE ACADEMY OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY (AABN)

One of ABN's biggest initiatives this year was the formation of the Academy of the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology, or AABN. Postdoctoral programs recognized by AABN will meet criterion that closely mirror those established by the Houston Conference, but permit far greater flexibility in satisfac-

tion of those requirements. Recognized programs have access through AABN to web-based didactic programs that help to satisfy many of the requirements of the Houston Conference, making it easier for smaller programs, or those not affiliated with a University or large hospital system to closely mirror Houston

Conference guidelines for their post doctoral fellows. In so doing, it makes high quality post doctoral education available to a higher number and wider variety of new graduates and supports our commitment to diversity. Individuals coming through these AABN-recognized programs will be prepared for applying for board certification with any of the 3 major neuropsychology boards, immediately after completing the fellowship. Both institutional and private practices are eligible for recognition by AABN, and are encouraged to apply. If you have a large private practice with a variety of patients, an institutional practice, or a hospital based practice that already has a postdoctoral program, please consider finding out whether your program can be recognized. Our requirements are flexible, and allow two or more programs to form a training consorti-

um, so if you cannot manage a full time post doc on your own, you may be able to share one part time with one or more colleagues.

Contact Paula Cooper, paulacooper-phd@gmail.com. Less than one year into this initiative and already, due to the efforts of chair and ABN Diplomate Dr. Paula Cooper, we have already recognized four programs, with others currently working through the application process. We would like to welcome our new training partners:

- Institute for Clinical Neurosciences, TX
- Alleghany General Hospital,  
Dept. of Psychiatry, PA
- Comprehensive Med-Psych Systems, FL

## ACPN Activities

As many know, the BOD decided to forego large annual conferences in favor of smaller regional efforts. Our CE initiatives via the ACPN committee included several offerings in the past year, listed at: [www.acpn.myshopify.com](http://www.acpn.myshopify.com), our web site for CE activities. Our largest event for the year was the 2014 Seal Beach Conference (09/13-14/2014): *Symptom Validity Assessment: Implications for Practice, Ethics & Supervision*. Presenters included: Paul Green PhD, Roger Gervais PhD, Jeffrey Webster PhD, and Martin Rohling, PhD. The brochure remains online for the coming year.

This ACPN conference was planned as a small-sized regional event, attended by 61, mostly from the western region, Seal Beach and surrounds, as well as from: NY, NJ, FL, WI, MI, WA, AZ, SD, CO, IL, MT and, of course, Canada. Presentations were highly praised, discussions lively and informative. It was a rare event to have assembled such a distinguished, internationally recognized, topic-specific expert faculty. Presentations were broad ranging, from basic and theoretical foundations to advanced clinical and forensic applications, with reviews of past and

new research. Evening activities offered opportunities for continuing discussions. Our venue at Old Ranch Country Club was outstanding, with refreshments and catering on site. The event included the public debut of ABN's new conference banner, designed by Renee Low and displayed also at NAN, PR.

We wish to thank our conference committee: Drs. John Knippa, Bob Gant, Renee Low, Stephanie Moore and Tom Bristow. We also thank Dr. Robert Elliott (CE administrator and photographer). ABN appreciates them for their many hours of work invested to make the conference a success, as well as the support of the entire ABN Board of Directors. We especially thank our tireless and exceptionally talented conference faculty!

Thanks and congratulations also go to Drs. Elliott and Gant who were available to conduct onsite ABN Orals Examination, which resulted in the awarding of our Diploma to two new neuropsychologists.

## ACPN Activities—continued



Old Ranch—ACPN 2014 Conference site



Dr. Paul Green



Dr. Roger Gervais



DR. Martin Rohling



Dr. Jeffrey Webster



ABN's New Banner

## MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Our Diplomates have been busy over the last several months. Typically they are so humble that they don't let me know of their honors. We are here to highlight what we've discovered.

**Dr. Randi Most** was recently awarded the title of NAN fellow. She is also ABN's representative to the IOPC committee, where she has been an outstanding ambassador for our organization, recently having served a term as IOPC Chairperson. See below for her update on the IOPC's 2014 activities.

**Dr. Bonnie Aberson** has been a long time member of our board and continues to make important contributions to the field. She recently contributed a chapter to the Handbook of Executive Functioning edited by Sam Goldstein and Jack Naglieri and published by Springer in late 2013.

**Dr. Fred Kadushin**, a fairly recent ABN, has presented two papers to excellent reception: Understanding & Evaluating Cognitive Claims. International Claims Assn, New Orleans, Sep 2014, also Kadushin, F.S. and P.L. Physical Activity, the Brain, and Aging: Unlocking the Fountain of Youth. NAN, PR, Nov, 2014.

**Dr. Arthur MacNeil Horton**, Editor-in-Chief of *Applied Neuropsychology* has received exceptionally high praise for his work on the AN-Adult and new AN-Child journals that have increasing citation numbers.

**Dr. Leonard Kozioil** has been very busy. His most recent book was released (2014) by Springer, *The Myth of Executive Functioning: Missing Elements in Conceptualization, Evaluation, and Assessment*. He served as Guest Editor to a Special Section in *AN-Child* (Vol 3, #4, 2014), "Large Scale Brain Systems: Implications for Pediatric Neuropsychological Evaluation." Dr. Kozioil will be the keynote speaker at the 7th International Congress of the Society For Research on the Cerebellum in Brussels, May 2015.

**Dr. Anthony Puente** ran a strong campaign for APA President, coming in 2nd by a small margin. At NAN, PR, 2014, in addition to his presentation on CPT progress and to great applause, Dr. Puente announced he has agreed to campaign and run in the upcoming APA President election.

**Dr. Glen Getz**, had his recent book published, *Applied Biological Psychology*, (10/2013) Springer. Dr. Getz has also been active with AABN.

**Drs. Rod Swensen** and **David Libon** served as editors with Lee Ashendorf for their recent book, *The Boston Process Approach to Neuropsychological Assessment: A Practitioner's Guide*, (8/2013) Oxford.

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Help us spread the word about member accomplishments and activities, or let the editor know about those of another Diplomat. Just forward a short description to: [seantell@forensicneuroscience.net](mailto:seantell@forensicneuroscience.net)

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Each year ABN would like to recognize members who have made a significant contribution to the success of ABN. This year, we honor our long time Public Member and several of our distinguished Diplomates.

### Outgoing Public Member Michael Scherneck:

For those who have worked with Mr. Scherneck, it is no surprise that he is an extremely talented man. For 7 years, he has served as ABN's public member, generously donating his expertise in accounting, tax management and governance. In his "free time," he has worked as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Southeast Georgia Health System in Wilkes-Barre Pennsylvania, since 2003.

Mr. Scherneck has served not only as a source of advice, but one of steady, personable and mature support during both good times and times of corporate challenge and difficult decision making. He has worked closely with ABN's Board of Directors and leadership since November, 2008, over the tenure of 5 ABN presidents.

We offer great thanks to Mr. Scherneck and consider him a friend of ABN, and consummate professional. Although he is leaving our board, we look forward to consulting with him in the future.

### ABN Diplomat Service Awards

**Richard A. Berg, Ph.D., ABN, Arthur MacNeil Horton, Jr., Ed.D. ABN, Robert W. Elliott, ABPP, ABN**

**Dr. Berg** has served ABN for many years, as one of its earliest members, as president in 1995 and as a board member and ABN Treasurer. He

has also served on many ABN committees, and continues to serve in the roles of "webmaster", ABN ex-



Dr. "Mac" Horton presenting to Mr. Scherneck

aminer, and mentor. He is a member of our "Distinguished 3" on this year's award list, referring to individuals who have conducted the largest numbers of ABN Examinations. He has been a continuous source of support and guidance.

**Dr. Horton** was among ABN's earliest members, serving as president in 1993 and serving continuously as a senior advisor and committee member. He also is another of our "Distinguished 3", conducting many ABN examinations over the years. Even if you have not worked closely with Dr. Horton, it is likely that you know him as the editor in chief of ABN's 2 journals. Under his command, these journals have become highly respected, and their articles are often cited. Dr. Horton also includes amongst his many accomplishments being a past president of NAN, a prolific writer, and an active practitioner. We wish to thank Dr. Horton for his steady hand and faithful support of ABN for over 30 years. Much of what is ABN comes from his philosophy that one can be both a professional and a gentleperson. We thank him for his service.

**Dr. Robert Elliott** is a multitasking professional. He is a highly skilled neuropsychologist with nationally recognized expertise in FAA procedures and policy. He is retired from the Manhattan School District, but continues to do Forensic Consulting. For many years has been a generous advisor to newly minted and mid career neuropsychologists. He is also a very skilled photographer.

As the final member of our "Distinguished 3," Dr. Elliott has conducted Orals examinations of numerous ABN Diplomates and offered training and guidance in the examination process. He has overseen our ACPN CE program for many years. Those of us who have worked with him can tell you that he what may seem simple is in fact a huge amount of work, which he manages flawlessly. Importantly, Dr. Elliott served as ABN president in 1986, just after Lawrence Hartledge. He has been a strong supporter of ABN for more than 30 years. We cannot thank him enough for his service.



Drs. "Mac" Horton and Richard Berg

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS: Continued-

### ABN Diplomate Service Awards

#### Bradley G. Sewick, Ph.D., ABN

**Dr. Sewick** served as ABN president beginning in 2007, after many years of activity in ABN. He continues to serve in a variety of roles. While coordinating a very busy practice with family life, he also served as ABN's representative on multiple committees. Together with Dr. Lewandowski, he authored our TPO white paper.

Most importantly, we want to recognize Dr. Sewick for his numerous hours of work for ABN and its members, along with well as his steadfast and generous support of ABN leadership.

#### Sue E. Antell, Ph.D., ABN

**Dr. Antell** has served on the ABN Board of Directors since 2009. While capably taking on the role as ABN secretary, she has also served as senior advisor, a voice of reason and standard barer for advocacy on behalf of ABN and its membership.

Those of you who know Dr. Antell will know that she is an exceptionally talented forensic psychologist who, despite being semi retired, continues to give her time and expertise to ABN. We look forward to years of the same. Ask Dr. Antell about her four grandchildren and she will mentor you for hours!

#### Joan Mayfield, Ph.D., ABN

**Dr. Mayfield** is an exceptionally talented clinician who has served ABN and the Board of Directors for many years, including as Examinations coordinator and in preparation of many of our conference activities. Dr. Mayfield is known to be among the most approachable, professional and thoughtful individuals whose



Dr. "Mac" Horton and Dr. Bradley Sewick



Dr. Horton and Dr. Sue Antell

primary goals have been to advocate on behalf of ABN and our Diplomates. She cannot be thanked enough for her generosity.

#### John Knippa, Ph.D., ABN

There are not enough words in the dictionary to describe the contributions of **Dr. Knippa**. At great personal contribution, he made sure that our most recent Las Vegas Conference was a rousing success and spearheaded our CRSPPP application process. He remains ABN's representative to the CNS Synarchy. He served briefly as IOPC representative until, as he emphasized, he was able to nominate a talented ABN who he thought would be better qualified, Dr. Most. He first served as MAL, President Elect and President. He continues to serve as past president. Dr. Knippa took over as President during a time of exceedingly challenging transition and guided ABN to a more secure future. Together with Dr. Berg, he led our new website team which is now reviewing the next upgrade. Dr. Knippa has worked toward building a leadership team which continues to grow ABN as a the premier professional organization that its founders envisaged.



Dr. John Knippa

### Distinguished Neuropsychology Fellow Award

#### Hollie Dean-Hill, Psy.D.

Dr. Dean-Hill is among the first of AABN's postdoctoral fellows. She has served ABN with generosity at multiple conferences and has gladly worked on numerous projects including AABN.

### Lifetime Achievement Award

The lifetime achievement award is reserved for those individuals who have contributed broadly to both ABN and neuropsychology at large. This year's recipient is:



Dr. Michael Raymond

#### Michael Raymond, Ph.D., ABN

**Dr. Raymond** hales from Pennsylvania, where he maintains an active clinical practice. Much in demand as a clinician, he has found time to serve ABN as its Executive Director for 22 years.

Dr. Raymond helped ABN to grow from a newly reorganized and small group of professionals to a group that has boarded over 350. He has served over under 14 ABN presidents. In his capacity as Executive Director, he has had innumerable opportunities to influence the course of ABN, to contribute to national dialogue and to influence numerous practitioners.

As we have all learned, ABN not only needs talented professionals like Dr. Raymond, but also those with personal dedication and the commitment to ABN's leadership and members. His investment in ABN and neuropsychology has brought us multiple dividends.

## **ABN—APA Members:**

As a CRSPPP-recognized organization, ABN Diplomates may list the ABN Diploma with their credentials in the APA directory. Go to the APA website to list your credential and update information.

## **IOPC UPDATE**

ABN has been fortunate to have Dr. Randi Most as its representative to the Inter-Organizational Practice Committee (IOPC). She has represented ABN well, working hard to advocate for our field, in a spirit of collaboration and open communication. She provides the following update on the IOPC's work:

If you are not already aware of the IOPC (Inter-Organizational Practice Committee), it is a "super committee" of practice committee chairs from ABN, NAN, AACN, Div 40 and APAPO. The mission of the IOPC is to coordinate advocacy efforts that support and enhance the practice of neuropsychology. This is accomplished by coordinating state psychological associations, regional colleagues with expertise in a particular area, and grass roots responses from lo-

cal neuropsychologists - to work in conjunction with the IOPC organizations. The IOPC has had a busy year, with several accomplishments around the country. We responded to proposed Medicare LCD's (local coverage determinations) in FL, the midwest and the northeast. The proposed LCD's contained many restrictions to performing neuropsychological evaluations, and in all cases were modified to incorporate virtually all of the IOPC recommendations. The IOPC has also become involved in return-to-play issues following sports concussions, that have arisen in several states. In FL, a neuropsychologist was eventually added to the state formed committee on high school concussions. We are currently working with Ohio on a similar issue. The IOPC recently sent a letter of support to the state health commissioner in MA, concerning the McKesson criteria that many insurance companies around the country use to determine medical necessity of our services. McKesson has in the past refused to release these criteria to providers or the public. MA has since passed legislation that forces them to do so and the IOPC now has the ear of the insurance commissioner - who is overseeing the rules regarding the release of this information. Other issues that the IOPC has addressed involve TPO laws in various states, release of raw test data in Arizona, restricted coverage of neuropsychological services by Cigna, and masters level clinicians performing neuropsychological exams in several states. Current projects include getting a neuropsychologist appointed to the Medicare Carrier Advisory Committees in all 50 states and working with APA to set up a qualified clinical data registry for reporting psychology specific PQRS measures to Medicare. The successes of the IOPC have shown how much our tiny profession can accomplish - when we combine forces and all work together!

Randi Most, Ph.D.

ABN Representative to the IOPC

## In Memorium

ABN lost a number of its most prominent Diplomates this year. We have asked our senior members, who knew these members personally, to offer a memorial to their friends and colleagues.

### Lawrence C. Hartlage, PhD, ABPP, ABN

Recently it was learned that Dr. Lawrence Clifton Hartlage passed away on July 25, 2014. Dr. Hartlage had recently celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 11 but became ill suddenly. It was known he had been battling health problems for some time. All who knew Dr. Hartlage were greatly saddened by his sudden passing. He had a greatness of heart and generosity that was and is unique.

All clinical neuropsychologists owe Dr. Hartlage an unpayable debt of gratitude for all that he had done for the field of clinical neuropsychology. For example, Dr. Hartlage founded the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology (ABN) and served as the board's President. Also, he essentially founded the National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN), the premier organization of clinical neuropsychologists in the United States because prior to Dr. Hartlage's serving as President of NAN the organization was floundering. Dr. Hartlage chaired the first NAN meetings and his leadership was the reason that NAN became an important force in clinical neuropsychology.

Dr. Hartlage was the only two time President of NAN. Also, Dr. Hartlage served as President of the Division of Clinical Neuropsychology (40) of the American Psychological Association (APA). Second only to Ralph M. Reitan, who had trained Dr. Hartlage in clinical neuropsychology at the Indiana University Medical School, Dr. Hartlage was a major force in American Neuropsychology through his professional service in neuropsychological organizations and his books, articles, presentations and workshops. Dr. Hartlage served as a clinical role model in child clinical neuropsychology and forensic neuropsychology for young clinical neuropsychologists who were interested in working with children and with the legal system. His stature as a clinical neuropsychologist who became a full professor in a medical school department of neurology was a singular achievement in the last century. His most recent books were the coedited first and second editions of the [Handbook of Forensic Neuropsychology](#).

An important point is that Dr. Hartlage was kind to young clinical neuropsychologists in mentoring them in research and clinical work. Many of the leaders in clinical neuropsychology today were taught by or learned from Dr. Hartlage. He was very generous in mentoring others and was most kind in helping others. As earlier mentioned Dr. Hartlage founded ABN and of course was an ABN Diplomate and strongly supported ABN all of his life. Many years ago, ABN honored Dr. Hartlage with the ABN Distinguished Clinical Neuropsychologist Award, which is the highest honor that ABN can give.

In closing, sympathy is extended from ABN to Dr. Hartlage's family and many friends and colleagues on this very sad occasion. He will be missed sorely.

Arthur MacNeil Horton, Jr., EdD, ABPP, ABN

### Ralph Reitan, PhD, ABPP, ABN

Recently it was learned that Ralph M. Reitan, PhD, ABPP, ABN died on August 24, 2014. This is an occasion of great sadness for all the many clinical neuropsychologist that knew Dr. Reitan or worked with Dr. Reitan or learned clinical neuropsychology from students of Dr. Reitan, or students of students of Dr. Reitan or who used the Halstead-Reitan Neuropsychology Test Battery (HRNTB) or selections of tests from the HRNTB. This should include the vast majority of all clinical neuropsychologists in the United States and the world as the number of clinical neuropsychologists who have not administered either the Trail Making Test (TMT) or the Finger Tapping Test (FTT) is thought to be rather small. Dr. Reitan is perhaps best known for his development of the HRNTB for clinical application for the assessment and treatment of brain-damaged individuals. As is well known, the core battery tests of the



Dr. Reitan, 2010—Las Vegas  
ACPN Pre-Conference Presentation

HRNTB were initially developed as part of a research program on biological intelligence, but Dr. Reitan, over many decades, adapted and augmented the original core battery for clinical application in the assessment and treatment of brain-damaged individuals. Dr. Reitan's research approach was to compare control subjects to previously diagnosed persons known to have heterogeneous types of lesions in various locations and identify the procedures that were sensitive to the general condition of the brain. Essentially, the HRNTB was developed to be sensitive to neurological as opposed to behavioral variables as a critical concern for clinical neuropsychologists was the biological condition of the human brain. Dr. Reitan used empirical methods to determine and demonstrate that specific psychological tests (HRNTB) were quote "brain-related" rather than "behavior-related". In a research career of over 60 years, Dr. Reitan published numerous scientific peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and books demonstrating the validity of the HRNTB for the clinical assessment of brain-damaged individuals while working at major research universities such as Indiana University, University of Washington and the University of Arizona. Numerous other research studies have cross validated, Dr. Reitan's research findings and in other countries around the world. The fact that the current CPT code for neuropsychological testing (96118) descriptor specifically includes the HRNTB as an example of neuropsychological testing procedures demonstrates impact of Dr. Reitan's work.

But perhaps less understood and less appreciated, was the impact of Dr. Reitan's research and innovative clinical procedures in establishing the role of the clinical neuropsychologist in the healthcare system. When Dr. Reitan began his research program at Indiana University, psychologists were not typically included as clinicians in departments of neurology. Dr. Reitan's research was of such a high level that neurologists and other physicians had to except the fact that clinical neuropsychologists had important contributions to make in terms of the assessment and treatment of brain-damaged individuals. Clinical neuropsychologist who entered the field in this century, many times are unaware that in the last century, the clinical role of the clinical neuropsychologist have to be carved out of an initially unwelcoming healthcare system. Dr. Reitan through his research and clinical

work with brain-damaged individuals clearly demonstrated the important contributions that clinical neuropsychologists make to the assessment and treatment of brain-damaged individuals. Dr. Reitan's impact is difficult to understate as his research was the major reason that departments of neurology decided to include clinical neuropsychologists as clinical staff members. Every clinical neuropsychologist working today owes their job to Dr. Reitan's contributions.

The American Board of Professional Neuropsychology (ABN) was proud to have had Dr. Reitan as a Diplomate of ABN and had awarded Dr. Reitan, the ABN Distinguished Clinical Neuropsychologist Award to his many outstanding contributions. It might also be noted that in addition to these outstanding clinical neuropsychology research contributions, Dr. Reitan was an extremely erudite and kind individual who spent numerous hours teaching and supervising graduate students, interns and postdoctoral students. Dr. Reitan was extremely generous in sharing his research findings and clinical wisdom and the majority of leaders in clinical neuropsychology in the last century had been either students of Dr. Reitan, or students of his students.

In closing, the deepest sympathy of ABN is extended to Dr. Reitan's family, friends, colleagues and students and others who work with Dr. Reitan on the sad occasion of his passing. Dr. Reitan was truly the Father of America Clinical Neuropsychology and the great importance of his many contributions will always be remembered.

Arthur MacNeil Horton, Jr., EdD, ABPP, ABN

### **Robert Sbordone, PhD, ABPP, ABN 1940-2014**

It is with great sorrow that I inform you of the death of my dear friend and colleague, Robert Sbordone, Ph.D. Bob died on Sunday August 3 of complications of a large right hemisphere glioblastoma that had only recently been discovered. He was 74 years old and had enjoyed a long and productive life. I had the great fortune of being in practice with him for thirty years and had the daily opportunity of exchanging ideas with his first rate mind. I have no doubt that he has had a major contribution to much of what is deemed valuable

and positive in my own professional growth and accomplishments.

Most of you knew Bob through his impressive contributions to the field of neuropsychology. He was one of the few neuropsychologists who were boarded by both ABN and ABCN and he was a Fellow of NAN. A few years ago, he was nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Academy of Neuropsychology. I cannot possibly do his professional career justice but will attempt to list some of the highlights. He was a pioneer in computerized testing, having developed and published a standardized memory assessment, the Sbordone-Hall Memory Battery, as early as the middle 1980s. He consulted with several cognitive rehabilitation facilities around the country in the 1980s when this endeavor was still in its infancy. He was a gifted clinician in the best sense of the word. He often railed against the tendency for our field to reduce our patients to a set of test scores and statistics. In his publications, he advocated a vector analysis approach in which the individual needed to be viewed within a broad biopsychosocial context; test performance only one of many data points to be considered in the assessment of a patient's functioning, prognosis and treatment. Far from an ivory tower clinician, he emphasized functioning in the real world and co-edited the groundbreaking work *Ecological Validity of Neuropsychological Testing* (1996), a classic work that is still one of the most cited references related to this topic. His book, *Neuropsychology for Psychologists, Health Care Professionals and Attorneys*, most recently in its third edition (2007), has proven to be an invaluable resource for litigators and probably one of the most practical and clearly written texts for neuropsychology graduate students that has been published. Bob authored well over 100 articles, chapters and books, a truly impressive accomplishment and more so considering that he was engaged in a very busy full time private practice rather than being employed in an academic setting. He was in very high demand as a forensic neuropsychologist having been retained in thousands of cases and having testified in several hundred trials throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Bob was accomplished in many different arenas. He grew up in East Boston in an ethnic Italian neighborhood and often joked that he was lucky to escape

without resorting to a life of crime that befell many of his friends and neighbors. He rose on the basis of his stellar intelligence and physical prowess. In his late teens he won a body building contest and was named Mr. South Boston. He attended USC where he was a gifted javelin thrower and qualified as an alternate as a member of the 1960 Olympic team. He had multiple opportunities to compete internationally and shared many colorful tales of his adventures, including meeting the Shah of Iran and traveling to the Soviet Union during the height of the cold war.

Although a man of the mind, Bob also appreciated activities that afforded a high degree of stimulation. Through the years he had quite an impressive collection of sports cars, the faster the better. Taking a drive with Bob required buckling up and preparing for the survival of g forces. He absolutely loved adventure and action movies and, if he had the opportunity earlier in life, would have undoubtedly preferred to be a Navy Seal. He served in the U.S. Airforce as an Airman 1st Class and then enlisted in the California Military Reserve, ultimately rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Service Command. Bob enjoyed martial pursuits and had classified as an expert marksman. Yet he was multifaceted showing a flair for the aesthetic side of life. He loved home decor and greatly enjoyed the interior design of his various homes through the years. At the end, he enjoyed a beautiful home overlooking the ocean in Laguna Beach in Southern California and a condo in Indian Wells, his beloved desert retreat. Both were showpieces reflecting his eclectic tastes.

He was an avid fan of science fiction and, anyone who knew him well, was well aware of his fascination with anything extraterrestrial. He probably knew more about Area 51 type topics than anyone outside of a top secret government installation. When I first met Bob in the early 1980s, he showed me a couple of short science fiction stories that he had written and had vowed that one day he would become a science fiction writer. Last year he published his first science fiction novel, *Client from the Future*, an action filled and fast paced story that incorporated his love of technology, aliens, and military heroics. At the time of his death, he was working with a screenwriter to turn his novel into a movie. A few days before his death, while lying in a hospital bed, he told me that he hoped to live long enough to realize his aspiration of seeing his brain child reach the big screen. He

was already contemplating the plot line for the sequel.

Most of all, Bob had a generous and compassionate spirit. He was a gentle giant who loved children and lamented that he never had any of his own. My children knew him as Uncle Bob. He leaves behind only a small family, a brother living on the east coast, but enjoyed the company of many close and devoted friends from different walks of life, from his early days in Boston, his academic days as an undergraduate at USC and graduate student at UCLA, his involvement in extraterrestrial interest groups, and colleagues from neuropsychology. It was an honor to be part of his life and he will truly be missed.

Arnold Purisch, PhD, ABPP, ABN Laguna Hills

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## **ABN BOARD OF DIRECTORS: NEW PUBLIC MEMBER**

As Mr. Michael Scherneck completes his tenure with us on the BOD, his place is very comfortably filled with the appointment of **Dave Carter, Esq.** as our new public member. When Mike advised us that he was to end his service, we realized that because he had done such a terrific job organizing our finances and providing our able treasurer, Dr. Tom Bristow, with the tools he needs to go forward, our needs had changed. As we move into this next phase of board development which involves more aggressive advocacy for ABN and for Non-Boarded neuropsychologists, your board of directors felt that the role of the Public Member would be best filled by an attorney. Dave Carter has worked for many years with Dr. Sue Antell in her role as a forensic neuropsychologist, and we are delighted that he has accepted our offer to become ABN's new public member.

Mr. Carter is the managing member of The Carter Law Offices, LLC, a Baltimore based firm that is heavily involved in the litigation of toxic tort cases, all of which involve claims of neuropsychological injury. Mr. Carter has practiced law in this field for the last 26 years and he has practiced law for over

30 years. He has also handled medical malpractice, disability insurance, life insurance, auto tort and premises liability claims, all of which involve medico-legal issues. Previously, Mr. Carter was judicial law clerk for The Honorable Alan M. Wilner, Associate Judge, Court of Special Appeals of Maryland. He graduated With Honors from the University of Maryland Law School in 1981 and Magna Cum Laude from Georgetown University in 1978. Mr. Carter's contact information is through the ED office, with the link accessed at [www.abn-board.com](http://www.abn-board.com).

## **IN OTHER NEWS**

As you know, the leadership of ABN, along with interested representatives in the various states, has been working actively to change state laws and rules which pose inequity for ABN. We have addressed some challenges along the way, but we now can announce that we have made significant progress in at least two such states, and we continue to work quietly to win equality for our Diplomates in licensing laws, CEU credits and credential recognition.

## **ABN Dues – 2015**

ABN activities are supported solely by member dues and activities, as well as volunteerism. Please look for your dues statement that will come by mail and/or email in the coming days and weeks.

Remember dues payments include the Maintenance of Certification information that allows ABN to identify *Active* members. Only *Active* ABNs are listed on the ABN Directory and included in the annual reporting to the National Register. Only *Active* members can be verified as such when carriers, employers and prospective patients call the ABN Executive Director for verification of credentialing.

Please, remain on the *Active* ABN roster and volunteer to promote our organization.



John Meyers, PsyD, ABN President  
Karen Wilhelm, PhD, President Elect  
Geoffrey Kanter, PhD, Executive Dir.  
Sue Antell, PhD, Secretary and Newsletter Editor

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Contact information for all ABN BOD members is on the ABN website.

We're on the web at:

[www.abn-board.com](http://www.abn-board.com)

[www.acpn.myshopify.com](http://www.acpn.myshopify.com)

## **Mission**

*ABN's mission is to establish and maintain professional standards for expertise in the practice of clinical neuropsychology. Objectives include:*

- *Validate the skills of clinical practitioners*
- *Identify competent practitioners*
- *Offer means for maintaining professional practice competence through continuing education*
- *Provide professionals and consumers with a referral directory of ABN Diplomates.*

## **Have Information or a Special Topic Submission for the ABN Newsletter?**

Please contact Dr. Antell at the link on the ABN website?

## **Members: Check Out Our Web Site!**

See the *Member's Only* section:

- Update your web information
- Pay dues for the coming year
- See current announcements
- Check the Clinician's Toolbox
- ABN TPO Whitepaper
- Key IOPC activities



Stay active, stay involved!

## **ACPNTalk!**

And don't forget to connect with ABN Diplomates and ACPN Affiliates on our listserve: ACPNTalk. If you are not a registered user, contact Dr. Richard Berg to request access, by forwarding email at the link on the ABN website or by entering: [www.http://abn-board.com/contact-us/contact-richard-a-berg-ph-d/](http://www.http://abn-board.com/contact-us/contact-richard-a-berg-ph-d/)

Share and trade your experiences, expertise and views!



Dr. John Meyers  
ABN President