

ABN Newsletter — Fall 2015

American Board of Professional Neuropsychology

Special points of interest:

- New Diplomates Welcomed
- 2015 Elections
- APA / NAN Elections
- ABN's response to the Hoffman Report
- NAN in Austin

Notes From The Editor:

The first half of 2015 literally passed before I had time to capture it, and we are now looking forward to a busy Fall. ABN has been extremely active over the past 8 months with advocacy work, development and implementation of our new Post Doc Programs through the

AABN and fine tuning our standards and requirements. We have also been active in supporting one of our own, Tony Puente for APA President, and another of our own, John Meyers for NAN president. If you have not voted in those important elections, please do so.



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Welcome New ABN Diplomates!

Congratulations to ABN's newest Diplomates: Drs Pauline Prince, Christopher D'Amato, Christopher Rachal and Marc Gaudette.

ABN is pleased to have you aboard and contributing to our important work.

ABN is a volunteer organization that counts on all of its members to be active with the association. If any member, new or old, would like to volunteer on a committee, or train to become an examiner or mentor, please contact Karen Wilhelm through the ABN website's BOD page.

We urge all new (and old!) Diplomates to become involved in the activities of our organization. Your help is sorely needed!



2015 ELECTIONS and CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

ABN Ballots have been mailed and the returns are coming in. If you have not yet voted, please do so ASAP as ballots must be received no later than October 1st, 2015. Election results will be announced at ABN's General Membership Meeting at NAN (see page 5 for details). If you have not received a ballot, please contact Sue Antell at seantell@forensicneuroscience.net. The candidates this election cycle represent the broad spectrum of ABN, with some longer-term Diplomates running for office together with some of our newer Diplomates.

As you may have noticed, there is only one candidate running for President Elect this year. ABN's bylaws state that 1 candidate for each office is selected by a nominating vote from the membership, while the other candidate is selected by a vote of the Board of Directors. Roger Riss was the candidate nominated by the membership (by unanimous vote). Roger declined the nomination. In such a situation, our bylaws allow for the running of a single candidate, nominated by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors met, and voted to nominate Renee Low for the position. She has accepted the nomination, and ABN is fortunate to have someone of her talents willing to take on this demanding job. The Board hopes that you will affirm her as President Elect. We are pleased that Roger will continue in his vital role as Applications Coordinator, where his service to the Board has been exemplary. (Continued on Page 4.)

UPDATES/CHANGES TO ABN'S APPLICATION CRITERIA

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,

Roger Riss, through the ABN website Board of Directors page with any questions.



Applying is a step toward success!

THE ACADEMY OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY (AABN) CONTINUES TO GROW

In January 2014, the Academy of the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology (AABN), a division of ABN, began offering the opportunity for post-doctoral neuropsychology residency training programs to become nationally recognized in a network designed to address the current placement shortage. Currently, there are 7 recognized training sites, representing a total of 18 post-doctoral residents.

AABN uses a consortium approach to training that allows even small private practices to qualify for recognition while still meeting Houston Conference Guidelines training requirements. For example, it is possible for two or more practices to join forces and develop their own training consortium. Through shared didactics, post-doctoral residents that complete their fellowships will meet or exceed requirements for board certification in neuropsychology. Below is a list of recognized training sites as of this publication.

- Institute for Clinical Neurosciences, TX
- Alleghany General Hospital,
Dept. of Psychiatry, PA
- Comprehensive Med-Psych Systems, FL
- Neurobehavioral Medical Consultants, IL
- Geisinger Health System, PA
- Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, NE
- Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Ctr., HI

See the AABN website at: www.AABNOnline.com

APA / NAN Elections

Two critical elections in our national organizations are currently underway. Tony Puente, a Neuropsychologist and ABN Diplomate is again running for APA President. This is a critical election for APA as it attempts to recover from the stunning loss of membership trust resulting from the Hoffman report, in addition to the Practice Assessment class-action lawsuit, and other issues. Dr. Puente has a national reputation for honesty and an unquestioned commitment to transparency and democracy in APA. If you have not yet voted for Dr. Puente, we urge that you do so.

The National Academy of Neuropsychology is also at a critical point in its development. While NAN continues to provide a service to the field of neuropsychology through its annual conference and other educational activities, neuropsychology is under threat from multiple directions and now more than ever, we need a strong national organization to represent the interests of all members of the profession. John Meyers, who has served as our own ABN president for the past two years (and has held NAN office in the past), ran for election as President Elect, is seen by many colleagues as an ideal candidate to help move NAN into a more active role in the defense of neuropsychology as it defines its role in the emerging healthcare market. Dr. Bonnie Forrest, ABPP, ABCN, also ran. Voting closed 09/06/15, results to be announced at NAN 2015; thanks to all for your support in this important election. Let's get behind the winner and support this great organization!

Reviewers Invited

OK, here's your chance! Do you recall when you completed your ABN Diplomate Application and were preparing your work samples? The tendency of many is to overprepare, perhaps a trait that we "train in" in neuropsychology. The details are important. You first had the task of locating 2 work samples that represented your "typical cases." Then came the task of blinding the reports, tabling data and copying protocols and submissions. A considerable project it was!

Next, behind the scenes at ABN, there were 2 reviewers (or more) who read, verified and scored those submissions. Those reviewers were ABN Diplomates who were trained to attend to objective scoring criteria to which they compared your submissions. They also used their clinical and general neuropsychological knowledge to weigh the significance of the data and evaluate the findings outlined in the report. They addressed common but critical points when reviewing the Work Sample submission. To name just a few:

- Was the case well conceptualized?
- Was test selection focused to the question?
- Were administration and scoring accurate?
- Were interpretations consistent with data?
- Were the findings well reasoned?
- And lots of other critical components.

ABN's Examination Committee strives to make for prompt turnaround for Applicant work samples. The team regularly has need for additional reviewers who are available to complete examiner training and volunteer their time and expertise.

Serving on the Work Sample Review cadre also has its rewards for the examiner. Please join the team and share your expertise. Contact Karen Wilhelm through the Board of Directors page on the website for more information.

President Elect

Renee Low: I am honored to be nominated for president of The American Board of Professional Neuropsychology (ABN). Since joining ABN, I've served as a mentor, membership committee chair, and member-at-large. I am excited to work collaboratively with the Board of Directors and our membership to promote ABN. My goals include tackling issues of advocacy, increasing benefits of board certification, and supporting our members in the changing health care world. I am committed to the success of ABN and I look forward to supporting the continual growth and goals of our executive board.

Member at Large

Cynthia Bailey: I am currently located at Touchstone Neurorecovery Center in Conroe, TX. I developed a comprehensive neurocognitive program for the residential program as Director of Neurocognitive and Counseling Services. I am excited to soon be joining Blue Ridge Neuropsychological Associates in Asheville, North Carolina. I have worked in rehabilitation for 30 years in various facilities and in private practice, focusing on acquired brain injury. I am running for member-at-large, and I hope to add my voice in making ABN even better. Thank you, Cynthia Bailey

Bob Gant: Dr. Gant has served with distinction as Member at Large for 1 term and requests your support for continuing his work with ABN.

Noah Kaufman: Bio: I grew up at the end of a long dirt road, in rural northern New Mexico, about 15 miles north of Taos. School never had much appeal to me—compared with ski racing, soccer, and bicycle racing—although that may have been a result of my ex-hippie parents not believing in traditional education and/or the uninspiring public school system in my home state. My passion for traditional education formally sparked at age 21, after I quit competitive sports and landed at a community college in Albuquerque, NM. I should have known my future would

include books and writing when my teammates constantly told me how I thought “too much” about everything. At the community college, I had to start from scratch with remedial math and English classes, but managed to figure things out and graduate with a master's and Ph.D. from the University of Oregon about a decade later. My lovely wife and I met as I was transitioning from the community college over to the University of New Mexico (UNM), where we both earned out bachelor's degrees. We now have a wonderful 12-year-old son, Cruz, who is *almost* fluent in Chinese and is an accomplished ballet dancer. Within the past year, I have rediscovered my old excitement for SPSS and am now dabbling in a handful of empirical projects, the results of which I'd like to publish in the near future. But the majority of my professional time and energy is directed toward clinical and forensic neuropsychological assessment, which I continue to love.

Statement: Never one on the lookout for a bandwagon to jump on, most group memberships haven't grabbed my attention. But it is with tremendous pride that I display my credentials as a member of the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology (ABN). Why? Because the journey from neuropsychology enthusiast to boarded neuropsychologist was as rewarding as it was long and challenging. I still fondly reflect back on the rigorous months of study for the written exam and then finally getting word that I had crossed the finish line. Not an easy journey. But extraordinarily satisfying and wholly worthwhile. Hence, it is with enthusiasm that I accept this opportunity to run for member at large (MAL), so that I may give something back to the organization that has done so much for my professional development. Finally, beyond functioning in a supportive capacity to the real ABN shot-callers (e.g., the President and other office members), I'd love it if I could do something to help the public see how important our field is to society. Thank you, Noah Kaufman

Raphael Wald: My name is Raphael (Raphi) Wald and I am writing in order to seek your vote for ABN Member at Large. As I have communicated previously, I am a relatively new Diplomat of ABN having passed my oral examination last Sep-

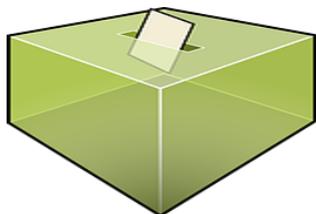
tember. I have served in the past as a mentor for ABN applicants and recently took over for Dr. Wilhelm as the Coordinator of the Mentor Committee, as she will have her hands full as ABN's incoming president. Serving in this position has provided me with familiarity with the board and the issues that are frequently dealt with. I believe this will allow me to hit the ground running as a Member at Large. I presently work as the lead neuropsychologist at the Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). We are a state certified dementia clinic and adult day center providing comprehensive diagnostic evaluations, social work case management, cognitive rehabilitation and many other services. In addition to this position, I am also the team neuropsychologist for FAU athletics. We are a division 1A program with a football team (in addition to just about every other NCAA sport) so as you can imagine I see a great deal of sports concussions. I am committed to continuing to do everything in my power to help strengthen ABN. Please do not hesitate to contact me at:

raphiwald@gmail.com if you have any further questions for me. Thank you, Raphi Wald.

Please note that 2 candidates expressed regret that they have had to withdraw due to unexpected obligations:

Philip Liethen and Chad Noggle. We look forward to their participation in other roles now and elections to come.

For those who cast ballots for withdrawn candidates, do not worry, this is accounted for by our rank-order manner of voting.



Join us at NAN for the General Membership Meeting, or come see us at the ABN booth in the Exhibit Hall

The ABN General Membership Meeting will be held at NAN on Friday, 12-1 pm, in rooms 208-210, on the second level of the conference hotel. Please join us and meet your Board of Directors, and to get an update of ABN's activities for the past year, hear about plans for the upcoming year, and to get election results. ABN will also have a booth in the Exhibit Hall. Stop by to meet members of your Board of Directors, and pick up an ABN give-away.

ABN Dues – Due January 1st, 2016

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 months.

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.

When paying your dues, please also consider a contribution to the Ted Blau Fund which was established in order to provide scholarships and other services to students, and to fund special ABN projects. Most recently, these funds have been used to help post-doctoral students and graduate students with particular hardships to be able to attend a national conference. Please consider a contribution to this fund so that we may continue this tradition. You can do so at the same time you pay your dues, through the ABN website.

ABN's response to APA's Hoffman Report

The ABN Board of Directors received inquiries regarding ABN's position on psychologists participating in "enhanced interrogation." The following response was posted on the ABN website for public access



Response to the *Independent Review Relating to APA Ethics Guidelines, National Security Interrogations, and Torture, otherwise known as "The Hoffman Report"*

The Board of Directors of the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology (ABN) has reviewed with concern, the findings of the Hoffman Report, recently commissioned by APA to explore allegations of collusion and complicity with the development and implementation of the CIA-led program of enhanced interrogation of individuals captured and held by the US Military. The conclusions of that document point inexorably to a failure on the part of APA's board and leaders to act in a manner consistent with APA's own Ethical Principles. The full report can be found here: <http://www.apa.org/independent-review/index.aspx>

While the report clearly indicates that only a few individuals were intimately aware of what was taking place, we believe that this failure was facilitated by an APA culture of secrecy and unilateralism, rather than one which prizes openness to the membership, debate, democracy in decision making, and inclusion of all stakeholders in its policy development. When so much takes place in the shadows; too many are inevitably left in the dark. APA is a *membership* organization. As such, it has a responsibility to represent *all* of its members, transparently and collaboratively.

To the degree that the Hoffman Report clearly demonstrates what happens when an organization loses sight of its responsibilities, it provides APA with an opportunity to fully explore the organizational culture in which the events detailed in the report were allowed to occur. APA can now openly transform itself into an organization which is truly responsive to the needs and opinions of its membership, and true to its goal of promoting psychology and psychologists for the public good.

ABN is an independent credentialing organization dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of ethical and professional practice in neuropsychology. We recognize that APA faces difficult times ahead as it struggles to address these issues. We look forward to working with APA in a collaborative manner as it begins the arduous task of transforming back into an organization which reflects the best that psychology has to offer.

For the Board of Directors of ABN signed 8/19/2015:


John Meyers, PsyD, ABN
President American Board of Professional Neuropsychology



John Meyers, PsyD, ABN President
Karen Wilhelm, PhD, President Elect
Geoffrey Kanter, PhD, Executive Dir.
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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

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 the editor, Dr. Sue Antell, through the Board of Directors page 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! Meet your ABN colleagues at NAN at ABN's General Membership Meeting, and at ABN's booth in the exhibit hall!!

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/

Share and trade your experiences, expertise and views!



Dr. John Meyers
ABN President