

# Development of Clinical Neuropsychology as a Psychological Specialty: A Timeline of Major Events

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The development of clinical neuropsychology as a psychological specialty in North America is based on the contributions of many persons and organizations. With the anniversary of ABPP, it is timely to recognize some of the major contributions. The timeline below includes many of the major milestones of clinical neuropsychology in the USA and Canada, leading to the formation of the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN) and the growth of specialty organizations that uphold standards for training and practice. The timeline is an extension of the one published by Yeates and Bieliauskas (2004). For additional background, the reader is referred to the preceding issue of *The Specialist* (The contributions of Manfred Meier, Winter 2007) and to articles by Rourke and Murji (2000) and Yeates and Bieliauskas (2004).

- 1965 Invitational meeting in Minneapolis of clinical neuropsychologists, organized by **Manfred Meier**, discussed education and training
- 1967 Founding of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS), the first open-membership organization in the field. The first president was Karl Pribram.
- 1975 Founding of the National Academy of Neuropsychologists (NAN). The first president was Arthur Canter.
- 1976 Formation of the INS Taskforce on Education, Accreditation and Credentialing, chaired by **Manfred Meier**.
- 1979 Publication of *Journal of Clinical Neuropsychology*, edited by Louis Costa and **Byron Rourke**.
- 1979 Founding of APA Division 40 (Clinical Neuropsychology). The first president was **Harold Goodglass**.
- 1980 Presentation of the first Division 40 programming during an APA convention. **Nelson Butters** served as program chair.
- 1981 Report of the Division 40/INS Joint Task Force on Education, Accreditation and Credentialing in Clinical Neuropsychology.
- 1981 Meeting in Minneapolis of the planning group for ABCN, attended by **Linas Bieliauskas**, **Louis Costa**, **Edith Kaplan**, **Muriel Lezak**, **Charles Matthews**, **Steven Mattis**, **Manfred Meier**, and **Paul Satz**.
- 1981 Incorporation of ABCN. The first president was **Manfred Meier**.
- 1981 First national conference held by NAN. **Larry Hartlage** served as program director.
- 1983 Examination of the first ABCN candidates, under ABPP supervision.
- 1983 Affiliation of ABCN as a member board of ABPP.
- 1984 Awarding of the first ABCN Diplomates in clinical neuropsychology under the auspices of ABPP.
- 1986 Publication of *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*, official journal of NAN, edited by **Raymond Dean**.
- 1987 Publication of *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, edited by **Kenneth Adams** and **Byron Rourke**.
- 1987 Founding of the Section on Clinical Neuropsychology of the Canadian Psychological Association. The first chair was **Donald Stuss**.
- 1987 Publication of *Neuropsychology*, edited by Barbara Uzzell and sponsored by the Philadelphia Clinical Neuropsychology Group.
- 1988 Formation of the Midwest Neuropsychology Consortium of Postdoctoral Program in Clinical Neuropsychology, a membership organization of postdoctoral residencies. The first president was **Kerry Hamsher**.
- 1988 Approval by Division 40 of the definition of a clinical neuropsychologist (*Journal of Clinical Neuropsychology*, 1989).
- 1989 Designation by ABPP of ABCN as the specialty council in clinical neuropsychology.
- 1990 Publication of *Neuropsychology Review*, edited by **Gerald Goldstein**.
- 1991 The National Conference on Postdoctoral Education and Training in Professional Psychology was held in Minneapolis, sponsored by ABPP.
- 1992 Expansion of the Midwest Neuropsychology Consortium into the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN), an organization of North American scope. The first president was **Thomas Hammeke**.
- 1993 Publication of *Neuropsychology* as an APA journal, edited by **Nelson Butters**.
- 1993 Implementation by ABCN of a written examination as a requirement for specialty certification in clinical neuropsychology.
- 1994 Publication of *Applied Neuropsychology*, edited by Barbara Uzzell.
- 1994 Publication of *Aging, Neuropsychology & Cognition*, edited by **Louis Costa**.

- 1995** Publication of *Child Neuropsychology*, edited by **Byron Rourke**, Sara Sparrow, and Harry van der Vlugt.
- 1995** Formation of the Clinical Neuropsychology Synarchy (CNS), chaired by **Kerry Hamsher** and composed of representatives of ABCN, APA Division 40, APPCN, and NAN.
- 1995** Petition to the APA Committee for Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology (CRSPPP), to designate clinical neuropsychology as a specialty.
- 1996** Acceptance by CRSPPP of clinical neuropsychology as a specialty of professional psychology; approval by the APA Council of Representatives.
- 1996** Formation of the Association for Doctoral Education in Clinical Neuropsychology (ADECN). The first chairperson was H. Julia Hannay.
- 1996** Founding of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN), a membership organization of ABCN Diplomates. **Byron Rourke** was appointed as the first president and **Wilfred Van Gorp** was the first elected president.
- 1996** The number of ABCN Diplomates awarded passed 300.
- 1997** Formation of the Association for Internship training in Clinical Neuropsychology (AITCN). The first president was **Sandra Koffler**.
- 1997** The Houston Conference on Specialty Education and Training in Clinical Neuropsychology was held with sponsorship of the CNS member organizations.
- 1998** Publication of the Houston Conference Policy Statement (*Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*, 1998) and approval by the organizations composing the CNS.
- 1999** The number of ABCN Diplomates awarded reached 400.
- 2001** The initial national match for postdoctoral residency positions, sponsored by APPCN.
- 2001** BRAIN (Be Ready for ABPP in Neuropsychology) was established as a peer support to assist candidates for ABCN certification.
- 2002** Accreditation by APA of the postdoctoral training program in clinical neuropsychology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the first postdoctoral program to earn APA accreditation in the specialty. The program director was **Mark Kelly**.
- 2002** Founding of the Association of Neuropsychology Students in Training (ANST), under the auspices of Division 40.
- 2003** AACN held its first annual conference. *The Clinical Neuropsychologist* became the official journal of AACN.
- 2004** The number of ABCN Diplomates awarded passed 500.
- 2005** Postdoctoral training according to the Houston guidelines was implemented by ABCN, as a requirement for candidates with doctoral degrees earned after 2004.
- 2006** ABCN received and processed a record number of work samples.
- 2007** AACN began online CE programs through its official journal and book series.
- 2007** The number of ABCN Diplomates awarded passed 600.

## References:

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- Yeates, K. O. & Bieliauskas, L. A. (2004). The American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology and American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology: milestones past and present. *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, 18, 489-493.

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