

## FROM THE ACADEMY

# President's Annual State of the Academy Report February 2004

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This was a landmark year for the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN) in many ways, and I am pleased to report several areas in which the Academy has moved forward.

The AACN Board finalized an agreement with SWETS (now Taylor & Francis) to have The Clinical Neuropsychologist (TCN) be the official journal of the Academy. TCN issue no. 1 of 2003 noted for the first time that it had become the "The Official Journal of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology." Through this arrangement, the AACN will have a prominent and widely accessible venue for disseminating information about the Academy, its activities, and its position statements. The first official position paper of the AACN to be printed in TCN under this new arrangement was printed in issue no. 4 of 2003. The position statement addresses concerns and recommends policies with respect to ethical complaints made against clinical neuropsychologists during adversarial proceedings. It was prepared by a subcommittee of the AACN Board, consisting of Jerry Sweet, Manfred Greiffenstein, Ted Peck, and Michael Schmidt, with input from the full AACN Board.

Another historic event was holding the First Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology. The meeting was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in June of

2003 and attracted both AACN members and non-members.

Consistent with the goals laid out for the conference, it offered an impressive array of high quality short courses offered by prominent researchers and clinicians in the field. There was also a 2-day workshop about the ABCN and the credentialing process, including mock case reviews and oral exams, presented by Linas Bieliauskas and Diane Howieson, who have coordinated this workshop for many years. It was very well attended, and participants who were considering or were in the process of board certification seemed to enjoy the interaction with the many members of AACN in attendance at the conference. The conference was organized superbly by Greg Lamberty, and Minneapolis offered us easy access, great early summer weather, fabulous food, cultural and sports opportunities, and a wonderful venue in which to interact and socialize with colleagues.

Another AACN Annual Meeting is planned in Minneapolis this year, for AACN members and non-members. So mark your calendars for June 10–12 and plan to come and enjoy some of the highest quality and most congenial continuing education opportunities to be had! This year's meeting will in fact be larger and even more diverse than last year's meeting, including a poster session and keynote address. The Boards

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of Directors of both the ABCN and AACN will be convening at the meeting, and there will be another Annual General Meeting of the Academy. The meeting presents a wonderful opportunity to talk with and make your views known to those who are representing the ABCN membership and overseeing the ABCN credentialing process.

Another major activity that AACN has seen through to implementation this year is the formalization of a Mentoring Program for individuals who are applying for ABCN board certification and moving through the steps of the credentialing process. Jacobus Donders has done a wonderful job of developing this program. He has solicited an interest in, and commitment to, serving as a mentor from many of you, already, and I would like to personally thank those of you who have offered to provide this valuable service to our potential new members. If you have not already done so, please consider volunteering to become a mentor. It can be a very valuable and rewarding experience for members and for candidates.

It has also been a year in which our parent organization, ABPP, has begun to make real efforts to increase the visibility of the ABPP credential. Through the efforts of Joe Talley, there have been lobbying efforts to move a bill forward in Congress that would call for increasing the salaries of psychologists and other professionals who have attained board certification, and who are working in federally funded positions. The ABPP Board of Directors has also made an application to join the American Association of Medical Specialties (AAMS). The AAMS represents all of the major medical specialty organizations and disciplines, including, for example, the American Academy of Neurology, and the Deans of North American Medical Schools and programs. This organization deals with many of the same issues we are grappling with, including standards for education, appropriate credentialing, and the structure and support of postgraduate and resident training. Reports are that having psychology at the AAMS table, even in preliminary meetings, has already had an impact of alerting medical professions to current credentialing in psychology. The ABPP is also sending out information about board certification in psychology to the credentialing office of all the major hospitals

in the country, and indicating methods of verifying board certification in new applications.

The AACN list continues to serve as a very valuable means of communication, education, and stimulation. Our thanks go to Robert Ivnik for his able hosting and management of this large and rapidly growing list.

The American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN) has been attracting increasing numbers of applicants, which speaks well of our conscientious and serious efforts to establish a meaningful and reasonable peer review process. Recent successes in this regard may require allocating greater resources to the examination process in order to handle the increased demand. We congratulate Ida Sue Baron and her very active ABCN Board of Directors, who as you know are charged with the examination process. Through their efforts, our membership continues to grow.

I close this newsletter with a note of thanks for allowing me the privilege of serving as President of the AACN for the last 2 years. I feel that much has been accomplished with the help and efforts of a very able group of executive officers, including Robb Mapou, vice-president, Dan Tranel, Treasurer, and Keith Yeates, Secretary, as well as our Executive Office, Linas Bieliauskas, and his office staff. AACN is financially stable. We have been steadily achieving out strategic objectives and mandates, though many challenges remain and the AACN needs to establish itself more fully as a strong voice for clinical neuropsychology. It is my turn to rotate off the Board, but I am thrilled to see the level of enthusiasm and the depth of experience among the continuing board members, as well as the dynamic group of individuals who have just been elected to office. Rob Mapou is the new president, Jerry Sweet is the new vice president, Manfred Greiffenstein is the new secretary, and Dan Tranel was re-elected as treasurer. I encourage you to communicate with your board officers and the other AACN board members about the directions the board is taking and new initiatives it might consider.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Mateer  
President, AACN