

## **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL STATE OF THE ACADEMY REPORT**

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I am pleased to report that the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN) has continued to grow and to be a vital and active organization. This same theme characterized my report last year and remains germane to our work in 2005. As I write this report, in the fall of 2005, we are preparing for another round of elections to the Board of Directors (BOD). The following new BOD members were elected in the winter of 2004 and began serving their five-year terms in February 2005: Kyle J. Boone, Ph.D.; Robert Heilbronner, Ph.D.; and Michael McCrea, Ph.D. One of our members, Keith Owen Yeates, Ph.D., has been elected as president-elect of Division 40 of the American Psychological Association (APA), for which we congratulate him heartily. Regrettably, Dr. Yeates, who has served with me on the BOD since we were both elected in 2002 and was our secretary from 2002 to 2004, resigned in August 2005, following his election. Dr. Yeates decided that his resignation was in the best interest of AACN, to avoid any hint of conflict of interest by serving on both our BOD and the Division 40 executive committee simultaneously. The BOD selected Susan McPherson, Ph.D., to complete his term. This year, as usual, we are electing three individuals. However, because only Dr. Tranel will be rotating off of the BOD in February and because five rather than three members were elected in 2002, the BOD will be a bit larger than its typical 15 members until February 2007.

Our annual meeting was held in June 2005, again in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and ably organized for the third year by BOD member Greg Lamberty, Ph.D. As in years past, Dr. Lamberty was assisted by Drs. McCrea, McPherson, and Ida Sue Baron. BOD member Richard Kaplan, Ph.D., continued to provide continuing education (CE) documentation to attendees. This year saw our best attendance yet, with more than 220 participants. There were 21 CE workshops and 30 scientific posters, both up slightly from 2004. The second recipient of our Distinguished Neuropsychologist Award was AACN Executive Director Linas Bieliauskas, Ph.D., recognized not only for his professional contributions through this and other neuropsychology organizations but

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for his scientific contributions, as well. In his lecture, Dr. Bieliauskas provided an excellent and enjoyable summary of his recent research.

In 2006, our meeting will be moving out of Minneapolis and will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from June 15 to June 17. Sandra Koffler, Ph.D., has taken over as the meeting chair, although all those involved in the past will continue to assist her with the program. At this point, almost all of the speakers are set. Especially exciting is a planned symposium on contemporary testing issues, being organized by David Schretlen, Ph.D., and stemming from a discussion on the AACN listserver. This portion of the program will feature a cast of luminaries in the field and should prove memorable. Given the substantial momentum and energy for the annual meeting, we are actively looking ahead to Denver, Colorado, for our 2007 meeting and hope to hold future meetings in cities that will be attractive to our members and their families for a June vacation.

*The Clinical Neuropsychologist* (TCN) has been our official journal since 2004. TCN continues to publish the abstracts for the AACN meeting, which appeared in advance of the 2005 meeting. All meeting attendees also received a free copy of the issue containing the abstracts. In 2006, TCN will become an official benefit to AACN members. Although this has required a dues increase, this is outweighed by the reduced cost at which members will receive the journal. We anticipate that the cost will remain at this level for at least the next three years, through 2008. The continued high volume of publishable submissions has led to an increase of 120 pages for the 2006 volume. Planned special issue topics include Meta-Analyses in Neuropsychology and Special Technologies in Neuropsychology. In addition, Dr. Kaplan is looking into the possibility of obtaining journal-based CE credits through TCN. This will provide an additional way for our members and for TCN readers who are not AACN members to obtain CE credits. I encourage members to submit AACN-related work to the journal, given that this is our official means of communication.

Several of our projects have now been completed and are being prepared for publication. The Practice Guidelines, begun by Michael Schmidt, Ph.D. and Dr. Heilbronner, and finalized by Dr. Heilbronner and his committee, were submitted to the BOD at the beginning of September 2005. Following review by the BOD, we hope to see this published in TCN in 2006. The salary survey, spearheaded by Jerry Sweet, Ph.D., with assistance from Paul Moberg, Ph.D., and Nat Nelson, has been completed. Preliminary data were presented at the annual meeting. Data are now being analyzed in depth and being prepared for publication in TCN.

Regarding ongoing projects, Michael Westerveld, Ph.D., and Shanna Kurth, Ph.D., have continued to work with Division 40 on CPT codes. New codes were approved in November 2004, which would separate professional and technical components of neuropsychological assessment. In 2005, surveys were conducted to determine the work values of the codes. These codes are scheduled for publication in 2005 and for implementation in January 2006. The mentoring program has continued to be overseen by Jacobus Donders, Ph.D. As of late 2005, 80 individuals had been involved as mentors for candidates going through the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN) examination process. Although Dr. Donders has had limited feedback, virtually all that he has received has been very positive. Additional mentors are still needed. There is also a shortage of mentors for candidates whose

work is primarily pediatric. If you would like to serve as a mentor and, especially if you work with children, please contact Dr. Donders. Finally, in addition to TCN, Dr. Kaplan is looking into other ways to provide home study CE credit, including recorded lectures from the annual meeting.

We also have a new project this year. For several years, the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) has asked all affiliated boards and academies to address issues of cultural and ethnic diversity. At my request, Daryl Fujii, Ph.D., is chairing this effort for AACN and has a committee looking at how we, as an academy, are addressing diversity and multicultural issues. He is also working with Joel Kramer, Ph.D., who is in charge of a similar effort for ABCN. Dr. Fujii began his work by contacting Bill Parham, Ph.D., to learn what ABPP has been doing in this area. So far, Dr. Fujii and his committee have completed a self-study of AACN's approach to these issues, have developed written examination questions relevant to multicultural and diversity issues, and have produced a very extensive list of references on multicultural issues that has been posted on our website ([www.theaacn.org](http://www.theaacn.org)). The committee is also working on ways to increase the number of ethnic minority neuropsychologists. Dr. Fujii is writing a chapter on multicultural issues for the AACN Study Guide. Finally, the committee will be working with the annual meeting committee to routinely include multicultural training at the annual meeting.

This year, we added a new listserver for members who would like to present and discuss clinical cases, AACN-CD. The listserver is overseen by Larry Freedman, Ph.D., who graciously presented many of the cases. This has been a great opportunity for members to learn from each other and to hear about rarely seen syndromes. Of course, I would also like to thank Robert Ivnik, Ph.D., for his continued overseeing of all of our listservers.

Regarding the website, we have continued to post documents that have been published in TCN, as well as other materials relevant to our members. The AACN Study Guide has been updated and is now available as a PDF file. We invite our members to visit the website, which we are hoping will be a source of current news for AACN members. I would like to thank our webmaster, Nina Bieliauskas, for the time she has devoted to maintaining our website.

As I noted in last year's report, our growth required a formal budget, which we established this year. Projections for a budget also require that we set our priorities as an organization. Toward that end, we held a strategic planning meeting in Chicago, Illinois, at the end of October 2005. We discussed future projects that AACN would like to implement, the annual meeting, and whether we could continue to handle the volume of work now required for ABCN and AACN with the current structure of the executive office. Related to the last topic, Dr. Yeates and his committee this year provided several options for consideration, which will continue to be researched. Our budget was also carefully reviewed. Although we have avoided a dues increase so far, apart from that required for TCN, the BOD recognized that our expenses have continued to increase, and that this, in turn, required a dues increase to cover our expenses. However, we tried to keep this at the lowest level necessary. More information about our discussions and plans for the future will be posted on the listserver.

On a closing note, this is my last report as president of AACN. I have enjoyed serving the organization in my two years as president and in my preceding two years

as vice president, under the leadership of Catherine Mateer, Ph.D. I have been especially pleased to have been a part of the many projects started under Dr. Mateer's leadership and continued under our current BOD. The most exciting, of course, has been the annual meeting. Others have included the establishment of AACN as an APA-approved CE provider, our mentoring program, and the development of programs and documents designed to help the practice of clinical neuropsychology. I hope that I have served you well. I look forward to my final year on the BOD, with plans to focus on updating the AACN Study Guide and the AACN website. Again, the BOD welcomes feedback from our members. Of course, we invite anyone to get involved in projects as a committee member. Finally, as I did last year, I thank everyone who has contributed to the organization's success this year but who, because of oversight, was not mentioned in this report.