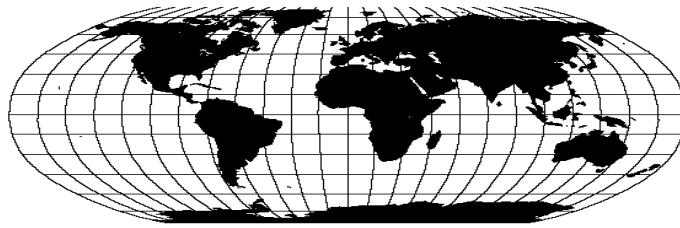


# INS

Number 12



# NET

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## INTERNATIONAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY LIAISON COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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### *Message from the ILC Chair*

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. David Shum as INSNET editor and Dr. William Seidel as Coordinator of the Book and Journal Depository. Both are long time INS members, very committed to promoting international relationships, and enthusiastic about assuming their duties. Please join me in welcoming them and feel free to contact them with your suggestions and ideas.

Kathy May, ILC Program Assistant, has done an excellent job of developing and improving the web site. A current project is creating an international database for neuropsychology training programs *outside North America*.

Please send us any information you may have about these training opportunities so we can list them on our web site as a useful resource for students. The training database currently contains information on twelve university programs in Europe, Australia, and South America, as well as links to two umbrella organizations with hyperlinks to dozens of programs in the Nordic countries and the United Kingdom. That webpage is at [www.ilc-ins.org/training.cfm](http://www.ilc-ins.org/training.cfm)

Please also check out the main ILC website at [www.ilc-ins.org](http://www.ilc-ins.org) and let us know what you think. We welcome your feedback & suggestions!

Bernice Marcopulos  
E-mail: [bmarcopulos-wsh.state.va.us](mailto:bmarcopulos-wsh.state.va.us)

### *INS NET Welcomes New Editor*

Hello, everyone. I am taking over the position of editor from Dr. Nancy Pachana, who has done a wonderful job. To introduce myself, I was born in Hong Kong and went to New Zealand to receive my undergraduate training at Massey University. I obtained my PhD in neuropsychology from the University of Queensland (Brisbane, Australia) completing a project that examined the effects of TBI on attention. Currently, I am working as a senior lecturer at the School of Applied Psychology, Griffith University (also in Brisbane, Australia). I have continued my research in the area of TBI but have expanded my interest to include assessment and rehabilitation of memory impairments. I have been a member of INS since 1992 and am really excited to be appointed editor of the INSNET. As the new editor, I am looking forward to continuing to share new ideas and innovative techniques for neuropsychological assessment and treatment from around the world. If you have some interesting experiences and ideas, I encourage you to send them for review and potential publication ([d.shum@griffith.edu.au](mailto:d.shum@griffith.edu.au)).

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### *Special Feature: Neuropsychology in Iran*

by Abbas Roozbehani  
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**Tehran**  
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Historically, psychology in Iran has been known as the 'science of spirit' or 'Elm al nafs' and was strongly influenced by philosophy. Iranian intellectuals have written extensively on issues such as the definition, existence and various aspects of mind and body-mind duality (reviewed in Mosleh, 1977). The approaches taken to tackle these issues included theoretical (Avesina, 985-1038), experimental (Mohyedin-Arabi, d. 1217) or a combination of both (Molla-Sadra, d. 1640).

Avesina was the first Iranian scientist/philosopher to relate the brain structures and functions. He subdivided the brain anatomically into three parts, namely frontal, medial and posterior. Avesina also believed in the existence of relationships between functions and specific brain structures and stated "...When there is a brain lesion, there are disturbances in functions normally carried out by the lesioned area and in this way we gain knowledge of localisation of various functions and their working." (from translation of Avesina's shifa by Danaseresht 1978). He subsequently stated that imagination, reasoning and memory are carried out by frontal, middle and posterior parts of the brain respectively.

Modern psychology has had a slow start in Iran. Iranian universities in the modern form were not established until relatively recently (e.g., Dar-al-Moalemin or Teacher Training University 1918 and University of Tehran 1934). Psychology as an independent discipline was not taught until 1964 even though the first Persian psychology text book had been published some forty years earlier. Prior to the Iranian revolution in 1978, neuropsychology had been largely ignored. It was both during and after the eight-year Iraq-Iran war that the relevance of the topic was mostly felt. This led to the first neuropsychology symposium in 1986 (Higher cortical functions: the first symposium on Iranian Neuropsychology, Tehran, 1986). The introduction of neuropsychology accompanied other aspects of psychology such as psychological assessment and child and educational psychology. The last decade has also witnessed a significant rise in the popularity of all aspects of the neurosciences in Iran. This renewed interest resulted in increased neuroscience seminars at hospitals in 1995 and the establishment of non-government funded education centres in 1997.



Development of new disciplines can often be measured by indices such as the number of research centres, graduate theses and relevant publications. The following statistical data were collected in summer 2002 to provide an indication of the level of activity in this field. Although there is only one dedicated neuropsychology research centre in Iran, neuropsychology is currently taught at the post-graduate level as a part of training in clinical psychology. From a total of 1000 psychology masters and

doctorate theses submitted in five major Iranian research institutes, 111 (11.1%) were neuropsychology related. There is no dedicated neuropsychology journal in Persian; however, from the total of 243 articles published so far in the three main Persian psychology journals, 38 (16%) were neuropsychology related. In my recent count of English textbooks in 9 leading education centres there were 157 neuropsychology texts. There were 13 neuropsychology books in Persian of which 10 were translations of foreign books, and 3 were edited by Iranian clinicians. The most emphasized neuropsychology textbooks were those by Alexander Luria and Lev Vygotsky.

The main drive of Iranian neuropsychologists in recent years has been to engage and interest larger numbers of Iranian graduate students and scientists, as any plan for future expansion in this research area is only viable if there is a wider interest. The current state of research, although significant, is largely hampered by a lack of dedicated research facilities and access to scientific journals. The increased electronic access to scientific sources in Iranian academic institutions over the recent years has helped by enabling dedicated scientists to share ideas and communicate findings with their colleagues in the developed countries. These scientific exchanges together with wider access to scientific sources are at the heart of sustainable scientific community.

Today one of the important sources for gaining the latest information in any field comes from conferences and meetings. For many researchers throughout the world, especially those living in non-developed countries, it is a financial hardship to participate in such meetings. In these conditions, liaison committees such as the ILC-INS have a great role in extending science by providing opportunities for young scientists to participate in conferences all over the world. For example, using ILC-INS financial aid I was able to participate in two INS meetings which were worthwhile experiences for me. It provided me an opportunity to make the acquaintance of other researchers in

the field of neuropsychology and to understand where the future of neuropsychological research is going. Without this aid it would have been hard for me to participate in foreign meetings and conferences.

(With thanks to Professor H. Ashayeri for valuable comments)

References:

Danaseresht, A (1978) Ravanshendasi Shifa; al fan al sades meen kotobe shifa, Ibne Sina (psychology of Shifa Translated to Persian from Avesina's Shifa book), fourth edition, Tehran, Ibni Sina Publishers.

***Russian Neuropsychologist  
Explores Cross-Cultural  
Assessment Issues***

**by Sergey Lebedev  
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This winter I was able to participate in the INS 31st Annual Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii. I'm a postgraduate student in Moscow State Lomonosov University completing my Ph.D. thesis and also a researcher in the National Institute for Mental Health Research (NIMHR), Russian Academy of Medical Sciences. My area of interest is not connected to neuropsychology directly. I'm interested in the creation and cross-cultural adaptation of valid and reliable diagnostic procedures in clinical and social psychology.

The position of the psychologists working in the Clinical Psychology Department of NIMHR is that without reliable assessment methods there can be no scientific psychology. Nowadays in Russia the most popular test is MMPI (Hathaway and McKinley, 1951). My colleagues and I at the

NIMHR believe it is totally invalid, but it is used everywhere, in all branches of psychology. And one of the reasons is that no other test is available. That's the problem we are trying to solve.

In fact, the situation with psychological evaluation in Russia is critical. In the universities the students are taught how to use the MMPI, 16PF, and some small projective methods and that's nearly all. As in the Soviet years, when our country was in a sort of isolation, today only a small number of psychological tests are used. In neuropsychology we use methods that were invented by Alexander R. Luria, which are, in fact, very effective. Those who are acquainted with Luria's theories and his works know that at first his main idea was to solve the problem of brain mapping in cases of Traumatic Brain Injury during World War II. He was really quite successful and he created the testing battery that could describe the state of nearly all the brain areas. Really, even now his theory is very relevant in clinical work, as neuroimaging diagnostic procedures aren't too popular even in Moscow (not to speak of some smaller Russian towns). It's much easier for a hospital to call a neuropsychologist who is able to map the brain according to Luria's syndrome analysis and doesn't need to be paid for his work, than to buy an expensive MRI. But Luria's methods are sufficient in clinical case studies only due to their structure: they are qualitative. They couldn't be useful in their present shape in any scientific research because they are not designed so that their results could be quantified.

I came across such a problem when my teacher, Igor P. Ashmarin, the Head of Comparative Physiology Department at Moscow State, asked me to assess the effect of the synthesized peptide Semax, a small fragment of ACTG that was thought to improve memory in humans, using a neuropsychological approach. My task was to invent the methods, plan the experimental procedure, and measure the memory shifts, if any, after the medicine taking. I needed some methods that were useful for the evaluation of healthy

male students. The experimental schema was double blind - one evaluation after taking the placebo, another after taking the Semax. The mean delta between the results of these two evaluations should be the improvement coefficient we were trying to count. For this purpose, two equal stimuli sets for every method were needed. Unfortunately, the methods that were used in Russia were not too reliable when speaking of using them two times on healthy subjects. That is the history of how I began to work on memory diagnostics.



The results of this research were presented during the Hawaii Meeting. My two poster presentations were dedicated to the experimental design of memory assessment. After the work of Campbell and Stanley (1976), we used to view the evaluation procedure as always an experimental one. Thus, we are making a great effort to validate the procedure and to eliminate all possible threats to its validity. In my research I studied the problem of the longitudinal measurements, when the psychologist needs to have equal stimuli sets to make the retest procedure possible. I explained the basics of how to create the valid methods for verbal and immediate visual memory evaluation. I also showed the results of my work: stimuli sets for three verbal memory assessment methods and the general design of three immediate visual memory assessment methods.

As for the other works in the conference, I must admit that all of them were at the very high level, if not in content then in form. After the first days when I tried to understand which evaluation procedure measures which phenomena, after looking through the exhibited tests from PAR and other publishing houses, I have gotten a much clearer view of what "western" neuropsychology, as it is called in

Russia, looks like. The positive side is that all the procedures are standardized and it's quite easy to get comparable results because in Boston the methods are the same as in Seattle. So the data on different samples is gathered really quickly as nearly every qualified psychologist could take some tests (which are approved by the scientific community) and measure the sample s/he is interested in. It really works marvelously when we're on the data collecting stage. But, however, there are some obvious validity problems. To illustrate this point, we could take, for instance, the Word Lists subtests from WMS-III. I don't know whether the words that are to be retained are equalized by any neurolinguistic criterion, e.g. the word "crocodile" and the word "wing" are altogether different by their characteristics. And I'm not sure that when a patient with one or another form of aphasia forgets one of these words, it's due to his/her memory disorder and not to the bad word choice.

To my mind, the main problem here is the commercial approach to test construction. The authors very often think too much of their 'know-how' when, in fact, there's nothing new to it. Looking through the Benton Test of face memory I couldn't find out anywhere why either those specific faces, or that specific testing procedure, were chosen. The validity of the assessment procedure is usually determined by the theoretical approach it is based on (Kline, 1993, 2000). That means there's nearly no way to prove that the test is valid/invalid until its theoretical background is clear. All of it makes the cross-cultural adaptation procedure very problematic, as we can invent our own stimuli, but we can't make them similar to the original ones without knowing how they were selected in the first place. In NIMHR, on the contrary, we are usually trying to provide a very detailed theoretical background to the tests we are adapting. We used to think that every psychologist has a right to know what in fact s/he measures with this or that test.

However, we don't have too much choice. If we don't create our own standardized evaluation procedures, we have to adapt the ones that were created by someone else. We are already using some WMS-III subtests, WCST and Stroop tests (Enikolopova, 2002) on different clinical samples. Now, looking through the pile of papers that I took from the INS meeting, we are going to outline the main corpus of neuropsychological tests that are being used all over the world, and then we'll study the problem of how to get them, adapt them in Russia.

I'd like to thank the International Liaison Committee. Without the financial assistance that I received, I'm not sure I would have been capable of making such a trip on my own. The papers presented during the conference show our psychological community the latest standards for neuropsychological research. And I must admit they are rather high. I hope, sometime, we psychologists from Russia will correspond to them.

**INS 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting  
to Convene  
in Baltimore**

**By Jason Brandt, Ph.D., ABPP(CN)  
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As INS President-Elect, please let me extend a warm welcome to Baltimore for the February 2004 INS meeting. The Program Committee has developed a wonderful scientific program, with a variety of special features and distinguished presenters. Among the highlights are invited symposia on the amnesic syndrome 50 years after H.M.'s lobectomy and the role of cognitive neuropsychology in neuroimaging research. The diversity of topics represented in the program is extremely impressive; truly something for everyone!

In addition, Baltimore is a great city for a meeting like ours! There are a great many historic and cultural attractions, and dozens of restaurants and shops, all within walking distance or a short cab ride from the conference hotel. Among the more popular places to visit are the American Visionary Arts Museum, the Walters Art Museum, the Edgar Allen Poe House, the Babe Ruth Museum, the U.S.S. Constellation and Fort McHenry. For those coming with families, there is plenty for children to enjoy as well, including the National Aquarium, the Maryland Science Center, and Port Discovery Children's Museum. Visit the following web-sites for a small sampling of what Baltimore has to offer:

<http://www.baltconvstr.com/index2.htm>

<http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/visitor>

The meeting itself is being held at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, a brand-new luxury hotel right in the exciting harbor area.

Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) is the most convenient airport serving Baltimore; Dulles International Airport (IAD) in Washington, D.C. is a little over an hour's ride away.

Do plan to come to Baltimore February 4-7, 2004. This promises to be one of the best INS meetings yet!

**Featured  
Neuropsychological  
Society**

**Gesellschaft für  
Neuropsychologie**

The Society for Neuropsychology (Gesellschaft für Neuropsychologie or GNP) was founded in 1986 as a scientific organization of German speaking neuropsychologists working in research, in clinical areas, in the pharmaceutical industry and in

forensics. At present the GNP has over 1,400 members.

One of its main objectives is to provide guidelines for postgraduate education and quality control in the area of clinical neuropsychology. Thus, the GNP has set up a curriculum and provides certification services for qualified individuals as well as accreditation procedures for courses and training institutions.

The GNP holds annual scientific meetings; its task forces work on the development and improvement of diagnostic and therapeutic materials; regional and special interest groups meet regularly and support the continuing education of the membership.

The GNP also publishes the journal *Zeitschrift für Neuropsychologie* and various informational materials for neuropsychologists and lay persons. To receive more information please contact Christine Herzog at the GNP office. This year the GNP is hosting the mid-year meeting of the INS in Berlin on July 16-19. For more information about this meeting, see the GNP website.

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**For a list of over 40 international regional societies in over 32 countries go to the ILC website Regional Societies Database page at <http://www.ilc-ins.org/societies.cfm>.**

## ***Cross-Cultural Discussion Group***

The Cross-Cultural Neuropsychology E-Mail Discussion Group now has approximately 64 participants. Recent topics of discussion have included norms sources, forensic neuropsychology, finding copies of the Harvard Trauma Questionnaire in French, professional opportunities in East Africa, and assessments of Native Americans. All topics have generated productive exchanges.

To join the "CCN listserv" go to our web page at [www.ilc-ins.org](http://www.ilc-ins.org) and click on "Join Our Mailing List." You need to fill in your name and address; then you will be added to the list and will receive messages from the discussion group. You do NOT have to be a member of INS to join and participate in this mailing list. Please pass the word on to other colleagues who are interested in cross-cultural neuropsychological assessment who might want to join the discussions.

## ***Book and Journal Depository News***

The new Core Library Program has received 26 new books donated by publishers, primarily Oxford U. Press and the American Psychiatric Press. These titles, considered essential or basic to the field of neuropsychology, are available to societies or institutions demonstrating need and the willingness to make them available to students and professionals.

Because we are phasing out our inventory of used books, we have decided to coordinate with the APA/ International Council of Psychologists Book and Journal Donation Program which basically does what our B & J program has done, but on a broader scale. Coordinating with this program increases the number of people who can request our materials. INS

members who wish to donate used neuropsychology books or journals to this program should contact :

<http://www.apa.org/international/journal.html>

E-mail: [sleverty@apa.org](mailto:sleverty@apa.org)

**For more information about the ILC Book and Journal Depository and other programs go to the ILC website at**

<http://www.ilc-ins.org/programs.htm>

## ***Welcome New B & J Depository Coordinator***

I am pleased to be appointed as Book and Journal Depository Coordinator. As a very brief introduction, I completed my doctoral training in neuropsychology at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. I have held academic appointments at the University of Southern California and Columbia University. Currently, I am a Scientific Liaison with Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical. For years I have appreciated the endeavors of the INS International Liaison Committee in promoting communication and collaboration among neuropsychologists worldwide. I believe this is particularly important in developing countries and I am honored to now be given the opportunity to play a small role in these efforts.

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## ***Featured International Neuropsychology Conference***

## **Sociedad Latinoamericana de Neuropsicología (SLAN) 8<sup>th</sup> Biannual Meeting October 8-11, 2003 Montréal, Québec**

The purpose of this meeting is to encourage exchange of information and collaboration among those interested in neuropsychology, both research and clinical applications, in all regions of Latin America.

For more information go to  
<http://www.criugm.qc.ca/slan>

or contact Yves Joannette, Ph.D.,  
Presidente, VIII Congreso de la SLAN.

E-mail: [slan@criugm.qc.ca](mailto:slan@criugm.qc.ca)  
or [yves.joannette@umontreal.ca](mailto:yves.joannette@umontreal.ca)

## ***Conference Bulletin Board***

The International Conference on Neuropsychology scheduled to take place in Hong Kong in May has been deferred until December 2003 because of the SARS virus. Please direct any inquiries to Professor Agnes Chan at [aschan@psy.cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:aschan@psy.cuhk.edu.hk).

### **September 1-5, 2003**

Neurorehabilitacion 2003/1st  
Simposium Internacional de  
Rehabilitacion Neurológica  
Havana, Cuba

Organized by El Centro Internacional  
de Restauracion Neurológica (CIREN)  
E-mail: [cineuro@neuro.sld.cu](mailto:cineuro@neuro.sld.cu)

Website:  
<http://www.ciren.ws/rehab2003/havana.htm>

## September 8-10, 2003

Joint British Aphasiology Society and  
British Neuropsychological Society  
Annual Conference

Location: Newcastle, UK

E-mail: [dorothy.bell@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:dorothy.bell@ncl.ac.uk)

Website:

<http://www.bas.visitnewcastle.gateshead.com>

## October 12-16, 2003

25th International Epilepsy Congress

Location: Tunis, Tunisia

E-mail: [info@epilepsycongress.org](mailto:info@epilepsycongress.org)

Website:

<http://www.epilepsycongress.org>

## November 20-23, 2003

1st International Congress on Brain  
and Behaviour

Thessaloniki, Greece

Contact Dr. George St. Kaprinis

Professor of Psychiatry

Aristotle University

or Dr. K.N. Fountoulakis

E-mail: [kfount@panafonet.gr](mailto:kfount@panafonet.gr)

or [kfount@med.auth.gr](mailto:kfount@med.auth.gr)

Website:

[http://www.psychiatry.gr/index\\_psychiatry.html](http://www.psychiatry.gr/index_psychiatry.html)

## February 24-27, 2004

Restauración Neurológica 2004

Habana, Cuba

Organized by Centro Internacional de

Restauración Neurológica (CIREN)

Contact Professor Jorge A. Bergado

Comité Organizador

E-mail: [bergado@neubas.sld.cu](mailto:bergado@neubas.sld.cu)

Or [rn2004@neuro.ciren.cu](mailto:rn2004@neuro.ciren.cu)

Website:

<http://www.ciren.ws/rt2004/restauracion%20Neurológica%202004.htm>

For a list of international  
neuropsychological conferences  
go to the ILC conferences web  
page:

<http://www.ilc-ins.org/news.html>

## *Future INS Meetings*

INS 25<sup>th</sup> Mid-Year Meeting, July 16-  
20, 2003, **Berlin, Germany**

INS 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, February 4-  
7, 2004, **Baltimore, Maryland, USA**

INS 26<sup>th</sup> Mid-Year Meeting, July 7-10,  
2004, **Brisbane, Australia**

INS 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, February 2-  
6, 2005, **St. Louis, Missouri, USA**

INS 27<sup>th</sup> Mid-Year Meeting, July 6-9,  
2005, **Dublin, Ireland**

INS 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Feb. 1-5,  
2006 **Boston, MA, USA**

To suggest a location for a future INS  
conference or for more information  
about upcoming INS conferences,  
contact the INS Executive Secretary's  
Office: Tel (614) 263-4200  
Fax (614) 263-4366

E-mail: [ins@osu.edu](mailto:ins@osu.edu)

Or go to the INS website:

<http://www.the-ins.org>

## *Interesting Web Sites*

Psychwatch: Neuropsychology  
Resources

[www.psychwatch.com/neuropsych\\_page.htm](http://www.psychwatch.com/neuropsych_page.htm)

Hispanic Neuropsychological Society

<http://www.hnps.org>

Laboratory of Neuropsychology

<http://neuron.nimh.nih.gov/>

International Rehabilitation Research  
Information & Exchange

<http://cirrie.buffalo.edu/>

Geropsychology Central

<http://www.premier.net/~gero/journals.html>

For a list of international  
neuropsychological websites go to  
the ILC links page:

<http://www.ilc-ins.org/links.html>

## *International Liaison Committee Members*

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newsletter  
of the International  
Liaison Committee of the  
International  
Neuropsychological Society  
and is published twice a  
year.*