



*Message from  
Outgoing  
INS  
President*

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As the first Australian President of INS I have been proud to be representing the now significant number of Australian members of INS, which has grown steadily since INS held its first Pacific Rim meeting at Surfers' Paradise in 1991. INS has certainly come a long way since that time, in expanding its horizons beyond North America and Europe, holding conferences in South Africa, Latin America and a forthcoming meeting in Jerusalem in the Middle East. Those meetings have brought members from each of those continents and have helped INS

build relationships with local societies, which have co-hosted those meetings, fostering broad exchange of ideas and developing professional, research and social networks.

During the course of my Presidency I have made it a priority to work further on building the international profile of INS. One goal was to build stronger relationships with neuropsychology networks in European countries.

Together with Eli Vakil and Erin Bigler I attended, on behalf of the INS, the Conference of the Federation of European Societies of Neuropsychology, held in Berlin, Germany, in September, 2013.

We presented a symposium on traumatic brain injury, but also met with the FESN Board and struck an agreement to work together more closely, to synchronise our conferences better and encourage FESN members to become INS members and subscribe to JINS.

They welcomed our advances and have agreed to implement the agreement we proposed. INS

will hopefully continue to contribute to this Federation.

With the recent election of two new European Board members, including the outgoing FESN President, Guy Vingerhoets, and Ann Watts from South Africa as President-Elect, I feel confident that INS is becoming ever more international.



Photo: INS president Dr. Jennie Ponsford giving her address

Another step towards this has been bringing together representatives of clinical neuropsychology training programs from different parts of the world at the INS Mid-Year conference in Amsterdam, in July 2013.

This session provided information to students from many countries about the various training models for clinical neuropsychologists around the globe, which vary considerably and make it

difficult for clinical neuropsychologists to move from one country to another.

I am proposing to set up a group of academic neuropsychologists involved in these clinical training programs to facilitate information transfer and possibly also the growth of greater synergies in training models. INS is working hard to make its activities attractive and useful to students, who represent the neuropsychologists and the INS members of the future.

In late 2013 INS also conducted a survey of INS member views on a number of matters. It was heartening to get a response from over 2000 members and to see that the majority valued highly the international connections they get through INS, thus providing support for the directions we have been taking.

Another frequently expressed view was the desire to have INS develop resources and make them available to those who were unable to get to the conferences, including those from less well developed countries.

INS is planning to develop a means of distributing the resource materials from the CE activities held at the conferences to make these more widely available and will consider other ways in which it can facilitate

access to information and skills training.

I have felt privileged to play a part in this wonderful organisation and look forward to seeing it grow bigger and bigger all around the globe!

***The Córdoba  
Naming Test:  
A New Confrontation  
Naming Test  
for  
Spanish Speakers***

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Naming ability is frequently impaired in aphasia and degenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease (AD) or semantic dementia. Confrontation naming tests are the most common way to assess naming ability. Although several tests have been published, the most widely used test worldwide is the Boston Naming Test (BNT).

The BNT was developed by Goodglass and Kaplan and originally published in the 70's, with a revision published later. The BNT became so popular that it has been adapted to many languages such as Malay, Korean, French, Greek, Dutch,

Chinese, Spanish, Swedish and Italian.

However, adaptations have invariably faced the problem of the BNT containing culturally inappropriate items.

For instance, the pretzel is an item that is not very common outside the United States of America (USA). Therefore, the item usage frequency was very different across countries which led to changes in the item's order or even to substitution of some of these items.

These difficulties with items were clearly caused by a cultural factor and not just the language. In fact, even in other English-speaking countries such as Australia or New Zealand, substitutions of items were recommended. For example, the Australian researchers who adapted the test recommended the substitution of the beaver to a platypus. The Spanish adaptation of the BNT faced similar problems.

In addition, my experience with the test showed me that some of the original items of the BNT were misinterpreted by the Argentinean population. For instance, the igloo was interpreted as mud oven, which is reasonable since they are very similar in shape and the igloo is unknown to many people living in the South hemisphere.

Moreover, there were no sound studies showing that the validity

of the BNT was preserved after the adaptation of the test into Spanish. So, I was faced with the problem that my patients were evaluated with a test in which many answers were difficult to score (should I give one point for “mud oven” or not?), most of the test takers obtained high scores (which made difficult the detection of naming problems in highly educated people), and whose validity was unknown.

As a result, I decided to develop a new confrontation test aimed at addressing these problems. My intention was to develop a test that was suitable for Spanish-speakers, psychometrically sound (reliability and validity) and that was sensitive to the influence of age and, especially, education: the result is the Cordoba Naming Test [CNT] (Test de Denominación Córdoba).

The challenge took ten years to complete. With my group of students and colleagues we developed forty-five black and white drawings. A pilot study allowed us to order the items hierarchically and to reduce their number to thirty after discarding problematic items. We then performed the validity, reliability and normative studies.

For the validity study, we compared a group of healthy elderly with a group of patients with AD. Healthy controls obtained significant higher

scores than AD patients. Sensitivity was 74% and specificity was 77%. Reliability was evaluated using the test-retest method with a mean interval of 45 days, and the correlation coefficient between both administrations was  $r=.90$ , showing high stability.

This research also demonstrated a learning effect between administrations. As a consequence, the Reliable Change Index showed that a given subject can obtain up to five more points in a second administration which meant that there was no significant change in his/her performance.

The norms developed for the CNT are probably its most important feature. Following the model of the researchers at John Hopkins University and others, norms were developed using the regression-based method. Briefly, this method consists of performing a multiple regression analysis in which the test score is the dependent variable and demographic characteristics are the independent variables.

This analysis results in an equation that generates a z-score by comparing the test taker's actual score with his/her expected score. This method overcomes problems associated with the arbitrary definition of age and education groups. For example, is the difference between a person who is 49 years-old and another one who

is 50 years-old so large to justify their inclusion in two different age groups? Is the performance of a patient with 13 years of education sufficiently different from a patient with 12 years of education to defend their inclusion in two different education groups?

A shortcoming of this method is that in order to obtain the z-score of a given patient you need to compute the regression equation. This process might be a little confusing for those not familiar with these calculations, therefore, we created an Excel file that calculates the z-score very easily by just entering a few data points: gender, age, education and the raw score.

The statistical analysis showed that gender, age and education had a significant influence on the CNT scores and that is why they are included in the equation. The normative sample was quite representative, including 456 people ranging in age between 14 and 94 years old, both sexes and three educational levels.

Thus, all this work and effort resulted in a valid and reliable test with a large and heterogeneous database for the assessment of confrontation naming skills. The norms of the CNT have been developed in Argentina but this test is potentially useful for the assessment of confrontation naming across the multiplicity of Spanish-speaking countries. I

would welcome the opportunity to collaborate on cross-cultural studies with colleagues from other countries, even from non-Spanish-speaking ones.

Last but not least, I want to thank all of the students and colleagues who participated in this endeavor. Without their help and commitment, reaching the goal would have been impossible.

***ILC Welcomes  
Spitznagel  
as New Director  
of REC  
Program***

The International Liaison Committee would like to welcome Dr. Mary Beth Spitznagel as the new Director of the Research and Editing and Consulting Program. The ILC would also like to thank Dr. John Woodard for his years of service overseeing this program.

Dr. Spitznagel is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Kent State University, where she also serves as the departmental Multicultural and Diversity Committee faculty advisor. She trained in neuropsychology at Ohio University (PhD) and Brown Medical School (Internship/Postdoctoral fellowship).

Her primary research interests are medical neuropsychology, in particular the neuropsychology

of obesity, as well as geriatric neuropsychology.

She will be assisting members of the neuropsychology community, including INS, NAN, and SCN (Division 40) who volunteer to work with international colleagues who wish to publish their research in English language journals. Research and editing consultants offer help to colleagues whose first or native language is not English. They assist in such areas as research design, methodology and/or statistics, as well as language editing, in exchange for co-authorship.

If you are interested in participating in this program as a volunteer editor or if you are seeking editing assistance, please contact Dr. Spitznagel at [mbspitzna@kent.edu](mailto:mbspitzna@kent.edu).

***Forthcoming  
Conferences***

**7th Biennial Congress of The International Society of Affective Disorders (ISAD)**

April 28-30, 2014

Berlin, Germany

[www.isadconference.com/](http://www.isadconference.com/)

**37th Annual Brain Impairment Conference - ASSBI**

May 8-10, 2014

Fremantle, WA, Australia

[www.cvent.com/events/37th-annual-brain-impairment-conference-assbi/](http://www.cvent.com/events/37th-annual-brain-impairment-conference-assbi/)

**International Neuropsychological Society 2014 Mid-Year Meeting**

July 9-11, 2014

Jerusalem, Israel

Abstract Submission opens on October 1, 2013

Deadline for Submission is January 31, 2014

[www.ins-jerusalem2014.com/](http://www.ins-jerusalem2014.com/)

**11th Conference on the Neuropsychological Rehabilitation Special Interest Group of the World Federation for NeuroRehabilitation (WFNR)**

July 14-15, 2014

Limassol, Cyprus

[mers.vpweb.com.au/11th-SIG-Conf.html](http://mers.vpweb.com.au/11th-SIG-Conf.html)

**22nd International Congress of the IACCP (International Association of Cross-cultural Psychology)**

July 15-19, 2014

Reims, France

[www.iaccp2014.com](http://www.iaccp2014.com)

**7<sup>th</sup> World Congress for Psychotherapy**

Durban, South Africa

August 25-29, 2014

<http://wcp2014.com/>

**4th International Congress of ISCAR**

**International Society for Cultural and Activity Research**

Sydney, Australia

September 29-October 3, 2014

[www.iscar2014.com/index.html](http://www.iscar2014.com/index.html)

**14th International Forum on  
Mood and Anxiety  
Disorder, IFMAD 2014**  
Vienna, Austria  
November 5-7, 2014  
<http://www.ifmad.org/2014/>

**10th International Congress  
on Non-Motor Dysfunctions in  
Parkinson's Disease and  
Related Disorders**  
Nice, France  
December 4-7, 2014  
[http://www2.kenes.com/mdpd  
2014/Pages/Home.aspx](http://www2.kenes.com/mdpd2014/Pages/Home.aspx)

**International Convention of  
Psychological Science (ICPS)**  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
12-14 March, 2015  
[http://icps.psychologicalscienc  
e.org/](http://icps.psychologicalscience.org/)

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