

NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF
NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

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Dear Colleagues,

It is an honor to come before you as the newly seated President of NAN for 2009. I am also delighted to have a chance to give you of some exciting news regarding NAN and spell out some of my ideas and goals for this year.

I would first like to thank Dr. Echemendia and the Board of Directors for keeping us moving in the right direction over the last year. Exciting things have occurred. We successfully transferred the ownership of the *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology* to Oxford University Press, while still maintaining editorial control over the journal. This change has provided an additional financial buffer to our organization during these uncertain economic times and will also provide for significant improvements in the journal itself. I am sure you will be pleased with the new look of the journal. Rest assured the journal will maintain the same focus of providing clinical relevant neuropsychological research.

Another very exciting event includes the hiring of a Director of Operations (DO). This last week, the hard work of our DO search committee, Dr. Jeff Barth and Dr. Munro Cullum, with the assistance of members of our Board of Directors and NAN Central Office has paid off. Mr. Ric Morgan has agreed to become NAN's new full-time Director of Operations. He will be moving to Denver and starting in this position in mid-April. He comes with considerable experience in directing organizations like ours. I look forward to his new energy and ideas as they will undoubtedly help facilitate the success of our goals and strategic plans. As you know Dr. Bill Perry has been our interim director, and I wish to thank him publically for his many hours of hard work on our behalf. I would also like to thank Heather Santos and Terena Brooks for their willingness to step up to the plate and keep the office in the game over this last year.

NAN is in a financially excellent position today thanks to the leadership of our Board. One of the changes you will see this year is an effort to keep costs down and do what we can for our environment is move as much of our previous paper based activities to web based functions. We have had poster and conference abstract submissions online for several years now, and we have already changed our membership renewal system to the website. We will also be moving our nominations and voting process to the website as well. So rather than looking for that nominations notice (and later election ballot) in the mail, expect an e-mail blast directing you on how to make your nominations directly on our website.

This year we will continue to pursue a bold strategic plan that promotes neuropsychology to insurance carriers, health care providers, research funding agencies, and the public. I support the work of PAIC to directly engage insurance carriers in solving billing problems for neuropsychology. Under the leadership of Dr. Pat Pimental, we have seen striking success in this regard. I also support efforts to develop a strong marketing plan that increases the presence of neuropsychology on the health care map in general. We need an increased presence of NAN on the World Wide Web that would not only educate the public about neuropsychology related health conditions, but also neuropsychological services. We have had difficulty with our IT system that has been arduous to correct. I am currently pursuing a plan that will improve our current website utility and also expand opportunities for NAN members to obtain CEU's and promote their own practices through the NAN website. All of the above results should assist in the

ongoing struggle of increasing relative value of our services to insurance carriers and non-neuropsychology health care providers.

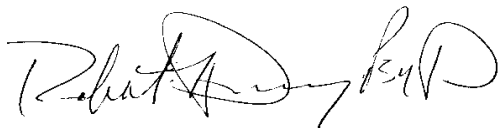
I plan to work together with the primary organizations in neuropsychology to firmly establish a unified training model that will serve to bring maturity to our relatively young field. This plan has already been initiated with NAN's involvement in the Inter-organizational Summit on Education and Training. This process must move ahead, and I will strongly pursue this line of work. NAN needs to be at the forefront of this effort on behalf of new graduates and the overall cohesiveness and maturity of our field.

I will support the efforts of developing practice and research networks where academicians and practitioners work together on common areas of interest. I will be discussing these ideas with Dr. Deborah Kolai-Attix, Editor of the *NAN Bulletin* and Dr. Robert Bilder of the NAN grants program to see how the Bulletin and grants program could be helpful in moving this endeavor forward. I believe in the scientist-practitioner model for neuropsychology. Collecting data as part of routine practice and producing clinically relevant research drives clinical neuropsychology forward. Practitioners need the knowledge to perform such activities. I will pursue the possibility that our annual conference could incorporate aspects of this emphasis to help those wishing to incorporate research in their clinical practice to do so effectively.

With that segue, I want to highlight the 29th Annual Conference of the National Academy of Neuropsychology at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel this coming November. I have been working with the 2009 Program Chair, Dr. Tim Wynkoop since the middle of our New York conference to include programming that emphasizes neuropathology, assessment, forensic issues, pediatric issues, and relevant material for the young practitioner to become board certified. Although we are striving for outstanding content, we are also striving for an overall enjoyable and fun conference.

Please feel free to contact me or any of the Board of Directors of the National Academy of Neuropsychology. We serve for your benefit and we remain open to your ideas.

Best wishes for a safe and prosperous New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Denney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Robert (Bob) L. Denney, Psy.D., ABPP (CN & FP), FACPN
President