



**NAN Secretary
2017 Candidate Statement**

Jeremy Hertz, Psy.D.

I am honored to be nominated for Secretary. I feel my unique experience and skills well prepared me for this position. Although many of you may not know me by name, I was the face behind NAN's distance learning for over 3 years, as the Chair of the DistanCE committee. This includes webinars, static courses, and extended courses. I had to connect with neuropsychologists all over the world in order to provide relevant information to the NAN populous. Over the course of my career I have spent time working for a medical school (currently I am an Associate Professor of Neurology at the Medical College of Georgia), in private practice, running a hospital division (Director of Behavioral Medicine and Neurological Disease at Walton Rehabilitation Hospital), and teaching. Furthermore, I have spent over 10 years either as a Board of Director's member or as President of the Brain Injury Association of South Carolina and Georgia. Running a non-profit is similar to NAN in that one must consider the financial viability of the organization against its mission, short-term and long-term goals, and be flexible enough to adapt to the constantly changing environment. If I were elected office, I would utilize the neuropsychological/medical community to strengthen our profession. I would bring another perspective to NAN, having spent so much time with a variety of organizations, applying my experience towards guiding the academy. I am committed to neuropsychology as a whole and will work tirelessly to advocate for and represent our community. Please consider voting me for Secretary.

Dr. Hertz is a member of the following organizations:

Brain Injury Association of Georgia (Board Member), Brain Injury Association of South Carolina (Member/Past President), Georgia Psychological Association (Member), National Academy of Neuropsychology (Member - Professional)

Candidate Positions on the Issues

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1. How does your background qualify you for this office?

A good board member must balance the viability of the organization with the needs of the community it serves. A good board member brings leadership experience and perspective into the existing dynamic while considering the perspectives of others, in NANs case, those that are engaged in a variety of career paths. For secretary, one needs to be able to multitask, collect thoughts and convey them while recording the details of others. For the last 11 years I have engaged in the full range of settings, always balancing more than one responsibility, consistently remaining engaged with NAN, most recently as Chair of Distance Learning and before that, as a member of the Conflict of Interest committee. My experience includes running hospital divisions, sitting of the board of directors for the Brain Injury Association of Georgia, and being president of the Brian Injury Association of South Carolina. I currently run a private practice that along with an outpatient clinic, staffs various area hospitals including acute care and rehabilitation. This is balanced by a position at the Medical College of Georgia. I feel the above experience allows me to have unique perspective into the respective challenges each of these settings or career paths endures. With over 10 years of experience in non-profits, I am uniquely qualified to understand and help guide NAN; my leadership experience has been organizational, not just clinical. It is my opinion that this organizational experience in combination with a varied career transcends well to the position of Secretary.

2. What do you see as the major challenges to neuropsychology in the next 5 years? How do you believe NAN, under your leadership, can be effective in meeting these challenges?

Neuropsychology must continue to promote itself in order to remain relevant. As we do, it would behoove us to present as unified a front as we can, especially as it relates to insurance issues, including reimbursement, being included as treating providers for specific diagnoses, navigating the changing healthcare landscape, being considered as an essential piece in brain-behavior research, and helping the public to understand what we do and to seek out our expertise. My experience with NAN has been with two committees over a 7-year span, distance education and conflict of interest. These committees are unique in that members/chairs are tasked with dealing with cross organizational issues, weighing the best interest of the field and the logistic business of NAN, and addressing the neuropsychological field as a whole, pediatric and adult, researchers and clinicians alike. Under my leadership, I hope to continue that trend, working to approach field related challenges in as unified a way as possible. My experience in balancing internal and external factors, focusing on what actually matters in a given situation while avoiding, but carefully considering potential distractions, will allow me to help NAN remain focused and diligent as it strives to best serve the neuropsychological community; working to keep us relevant.

3. How would you promote professional practice?

As NAN Secretary, I would continue the work I started, focusing on NAN being the premiere location for neuropsychologists to meet their educational needs. I will facilitate additional extended courses, continued webinars and static courses, and work with other organizations, neuropsychological and otherwise, to promote education. As chair of distance learning, it was my responsibility to deliver courses like neuroanatomy and epilepsy while adding psychopharmacology and behavioral neurology. The development and implementation of the full webinar series was the responsibility of the committee under my leadership. This required organization and follow-through, along with connecting with neuropsychologists and physicians throughout the United States and Canada. If I were elected office, I would utilize the neuropsychological/medical community to strengthen our profession. Furthermore, I will continue to use these platforms to educate the NAN populous on relevant healthcare issues, including reimbursement related challenges. Engaging the NAN membership is also critical in promoting our professional practice. I will work within NAN to help engage members, especially through modern means, such as social media, to ensure that NAN focuses on what matters to its members. Bottom line, I will focus on listening to your needs while doing my absolute best to promote and engage our field.

4. How do you plan to bridge science and practice?

From a clinician standpoint, we are now required to see more patients for less money; time is stretched, meaning providers may struggle to keep up on research directly relevant to their practice. It is imperative that information is relevant, easily digestible, succinct, and consistently available in a relatively central location for easy access. I plan to continue to educate the neuropsychological community about relevant research through distance learning while encouraging the research itself through grants and support for specific scientific endeavors. As chair of E-Learning, I spent 3 years focused on educating the overall neuropsychological community with relevant digestible information based on up-to-date research; I will continue to make this a priority if I am elected. From a scientist perspective, it is also important that other disciplines are aware of our academic contributions and consider us as they plan to investigate a particular medical or psychiatric condition; this can also be addressed through education, particularly through cross-education of other disciplines, familiarizing them with our contributions and knowledge-base. As Secretary, I will ensure these processes not only continue, but expand to better meet our needs as neuropsychologists, clinicians and researchers alike.