



**NAN President-Elect  
2017 Candidate Statement**

**Tresa Roebuck Spencer, Ph.D., ABPP**

I am honored to be nominated for NAN President. Advocacy for neuropsychology is my passion and continued advocacy is needed to keep our field relevant and prominent in this changing healthcare climate. Whether your role is patient care, forensics, teaching, or research, it is imperative that neuropsychology have a stronger voice to demonstrate its added-value and expertise to other disciplines and the public. Efforts are needed to ensure that clinicians maintain thriving practices, researchers remain competitive in the face of shrinking resources, and training programs remain strong and viable. As current Member-at-Large and past chair of the NAN PAIC, I witnessed NAN grow in its mission to support its members and advocate for the profession of neuropsychology. I am excited for the opportunity to be a driving force to broaden these efforts and hope that you give me your vote as President to accomplish these goals.

My professional experiences are diverse allowing me to understand the perspective of the many roles that neuropsychologists play. I worked as a clinical researcher and practitioner in hospitals, academic medical centers, and private-practice settings. I currently maintain a forensically-based private practice while working at Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital. I maintain research collaborations focusing on traumatic brain injury, empirical validation of neuropsychological services, test development, and assessment of performance validity. I am board certified in clinical neuropsychology and specialized in neuropsychology throughout my training at the UCSD/SDSU Joint Doctoral Program; internship at University of Chicago Medical Center, and post-doctoral fellowship at TIRR in Houston.

My commitment of service to neuropsychology and particularly to NAN over the last 11 years is long-standing. I joined the Professional Affairs and Information Committee (PAIC) in 2006 and served as co-chair and then chair from 2013-2015. I was fortunate to be one of the founding members of the Inter-Organizational Practice Committee (IOPC). I am currently Member-at-Large and board liaison to the PAIC and Policy and Planning Committees, allowing me to stay abreast of practice and policy issues affecting neuropsychologists. As PAIC chair, I had the unique privilege of interacting directly with representatives from insurance companies, other national organizations, and individual NAN members to advocate on behalf of neuropsychology. These experiences provided me with a good understanding of the many critical issues and difficulties faced by neuropsychologists today. As president of NAN, I will continue my commitment to advocate for the field and strengthen our position in this changing environment.

<https://tresaroebuck.wixsite.com/drroebuckspencer>

**Dr. Roebuck Spencer is a member of the following organizations:**

National Academy of Neuropsychology (Fellow); American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN); American Psychological Association (APA); Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (SCN Div 40); American Board of Professional Psychologists (ABPP), Louisiana Psychological Association, Florida Psychological Association & International Neuropsychological Society

**Candidate Positions on the Issues**  
**Tresa Roebuck Spencer, Ph.D., ABPP**

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

My career path includes clinical practice, forensic practice, and applied research across a wide range of settings. This allows me to understand the many roles that neuropsychologists play and to better represent the diversity of NAN's membership. I have a long track record of service in national organizations and advocacy efforts. Serving as Member-at-Large on the NAN board and chair of the NAN Professional Affairs and Information Committee (PAIC) has prepared me well to serve as NAN President. I have working knowledge of the structure of NAN and its many committees. I was fortunate to serve as a NAN representative and one of the founding members of the Inter Organizational Practice Committee (IOPC). These roles provided first-hand observation of professional issues facing neuropsychologists and allowed me to work directly and collaboratively with representatives from insurance companies, other NAN committees, and various national and state organizations. I have also worked closely with individual NAN members to provide resources, education, and contacts regarding professional issues. I have served on the program committees for NAN and Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (APA, Division 40), providing insight into the intricacies of planning a scientific program and into the wide variety of arenas in which my colleagues practice, conduct research, and inform policy. My three-year tenure on the Joint Committee on Interprofessional Relations between the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and APA Division 40 provided a model for effective collaboration and coordination with other disciplines whose roles and services overlap with those of neuropsychologists.

**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?**

The changing landscape of healthcare, shrinking reimbursement rates, and increasing documentation and administrative demands will continue to be prominent issues for practicing neuropsychologists, just as shrinking funding resources present challenges to research neuropsychologists. Neuropsychology faces the need to demonstrate empirical support for the value of our services, to protect our scope of practice from other disciplines seeking to provide similar services, and to advocate for ourselves in the face of budget cuts and health care changes. As screening tools and computerized tests become available and are marketed to a wide variety of medical providers, neuropsychology is challenged to determine the most effective and efficient assessment strategies while maintaining psychometric integrity of these tools. Neuropsychology should take a leadership role in shaping how these assessment methods are implemented in health care settings and adopted into practice at the individual and policy level. As medical science advances in the areas of advanced functional neuroimaging, biomarkers and genotyping of disorders, neuropsychology must continue to demonstrate our value in characterizing and treating these disorders. Additionally, as conditions that fall under our domain of expertise reach prominence in the media, such as concussion and chronic traumatic encephalopathy, neuropsychologists should play a role in educating the public and legislative entities. Neuropsychologists look to their national organizations to stay informed of these issues and to advocate on their behalf. As president of NAN, I will continue my commitment to educate members about important issues, advocate for the field, and strengthen our position in this changing environment.

**3. How would you promote professional practice?**

First and foremost, I would strongly support NAN's continued emphasis on promotion of outcomes-based research demonstrating the added value of neuropsychological services in the larger healthcare context. Such research provides a solid basis upon which we can advocate for the profession and educate the public. NAN should continue its involvement in advocacy regarding local and national issues and should continue to work closely with other neuropsychology organizations, as it has with the Inter Organizational Practice Committee (IOPC), to bring a unified and powerful voice to the issues facing neuropsychologists. Thirdly, it is imperative that NAN continue to educate and prepare neuropsychologists for healthcare changes in order to maintain our relevance in the medical community and support

referral and revenue streams. NAN should continue to grow its already strong educational platform through online courses and webinars in order to provide current and high quality information affecting clinical practice. Finally, NAN should play an important role in educating the public and other health professionals about neuropsychological conditions and issues and should take a leadership role in educating the public on issues within our expertise.

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

My commitment to bridging science and practice is evident in my commitment to continue with research endeavors regardless of the setting in which I work. In my practice, I strive to stay abreast of clinically applied research and to employ relevant and empirically supported clinical practices. Similarly, I would support and encourage NAN's continued commitment in these areas through the clinical research grants program, superior continuing education programs and courses, and a well-balanced conference program addressing relevant and timely topics led by leading clinicians and researchers. I would continue to encourage NAN's practice of sending representatives to national committees or advisory panels, such as the Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS). Additionally I would support and encourage NAN's continued efforts to educate the NAN membership on timely topics through email updates and the provision of educational materials and position papers on the NAN website.