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Hispanic Neuropsychological Society



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HNS Organization (and URL)

The Hispanic Neuropsychological Society (HNS) is a group of clinical and research neuropsychologists in the United States interested in promoting the competent practice of neuropsychology with Spanish-speaking populations. Information about HNS can be obtained from the HNS web site (www.hnps.org).

Membership and Leadership Structure

There are six types of HNS members: Fellow, Professional Members, Associate Members, Student Members, Affiliate Members, and Corporate Members (see HNS bylaws for definitions at www.hnps.org). The vast majority of HNS members are active clinicians. Some also participate in clinical and basic science research, teaching, consulting, and other professional activities. Historically, HNS has had a strong student membership (they currently represent 35% of the membership). Total membership has ranged from 30 to over 160 members (highest active membership in 1999 and 2010). Currently, there are 151 active members. Fifteen HNS members have obtained board certification in clinical neuropsychology and three are international.

The HNS Board of Directors (BOD) consists of nine members elected by the general membership (President, President Elect, Immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, two Members at Large, Student Representative, Student Representative Elect). Officers serve the BOD for two consecutive years, although the President serves 1 year as President Elect and 1 year as Immediate Past President as well. Annual elections are held in the fall. HNS' leadership to date is presented in Table 1.

Acknowledgments to the many members of the Hispanic Neuropsychological Society for their collective wisdom and institutional memory in the writing of this entry, ¡muchas gracias!

Hispanic Neuropsychological Society, Table 1 HNS Presidents from 1998 to date

Marcel Ponton 1998–1999
Alfredo Ardila 2000–2001
Marcel Pontón 2002–2003
Antonio Puente 2004–2006
Gina Navarrete 2007–2008
Tedd Judd 2009–2010
Laura Renteria 2011
Gilbert Martinez 2012
Tulio Otero 2013
Roy Aranda 2014
David Lechuga 2015
Xavier Cagigas 2016–2017
Monica Rivera Mindt 2018–2019

HNS Hispanic Neuropsychological Society

Mission Statement

According to the HNS bylaws, the organization's mission is to promote the competent practice of neuropsychology with Spanish-speaking populations. HNS seeks working relationships with existing organizations in order to promote training and research, which will yield high standards in neuropsychological practice with the ethnically diverse Hispanic population. Central aspects of the HNS mission have historically included: (1) encourage and facilitate the dissemination of clinical and research information for the practice of neuropsychology with Hispanic populations; (2) actively promote networking and collaboration among its members regarding the use of current and emerging testing instruments for the appropriate assessment of Hispanics; (3) work towards developing guidelines for competent neuropsychological practice with Hispanics; (4) assist in the development of training programs aimed at providing neuropsychologists with culturally appropriate treatment, assessment, and research; (5) remain a non-affiliated society in order to work collaboratively with existing neuropsychological organizations, both in the USA and abroad; (6) encourage and facilitate the development of emerging neuropsychologists who are interested in working with Hispanic populations via networking

and mentoring, as well as providing research opportunities to improve the extant knowledge base; and (7) establish a database of current and developing research on tests, norms, and funding opportunities for the practice of neuropsychology with Hispanics. HNS is a cross-cultural society and welcomes members from all ethnic groups.

Organizational Development and Major Contributions

Mid to Late 1990s

HNS was established in 1994 due to the recognition of the need for culturally and linguistically competent neuropsychologists in the midst of a major US demographic shift. Major contributors to its nascent organizational development were Drs. Patricia Perez Arce, Antonio Puente, and Gloria Morote who cofounded the group "Neuropsychological Organization for the Spanish-Speaking" (NOSS). Simultaneously and independently, Dr. Marcel Pontón chaired a symposium on Cross-cultural Neuropsychology during the 1993 International Neuropsychological Society meeting in Galveston and collaborated with Drs. Alfredo Ardila and Antonio Puente. A planning group that included Drs. Antonio Puente, Alfredo Ardila, and Marcel Pontón met at the 1994 American Psychological Association convention in Los Angeles. Drs. Marcel Ponton, Ruben Echemendia, and Patricia Perez Arce were chosen as the first officers of the new organization that came to be known as HNS (DeAngelis 1994). The organization was formed in an effort to promote diversification in the field of neuropsychology and to cultivate the science and practice of Hispanic/Latino neuropsychology. Dr. Antolin Llorente was responsible for originally establishing HNS as a 501(c)(3) organization in 1999 when he served as Treasurer (1998–2000).

Several HNS leaders and members met at the VII Congress of the Latin American Society of Neuropsychology (SLAN) in Guadalajara, Mexico, in October 1997 to create more international collaboration. At that time, HNS had over 160 members and published a regular bulletin. HNS also established a formal research consortium to

address issues of test development with large US test publishers (for more details see Ponton and Ardila 1999).

Early 2000s to Date

HNS was initially an informal organization that held gatherings at major neuropsychology conferences such as National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN) and International Neuropsychological Society (INS). Under the leadership of Dr. Antonio Puente, the HNS bylaws were formally established by the BOD in 2002, and the organization began to develop more formal operating procedures. As such, HNS became a membership organization and began charging dues to further develop meetings, resources, and build further organizational infrastructure. Dr. Monica Rosselli was the first Secretary (2001–2005) followed by Drs. Liza San Miguel Montes (2006–2008), Shelley Peery (2008–2012), Katrina Esherick Belen (2013–2014), and Veronica Bordes Edgar (2015–2017). Dr. Leo Shea served as Treasurer between 2006 and 2014 followed by Dr. Katrina Esherick Belen (2015–2016). Annual HNS Business Meetings and Special Interest Group Meetings have historically been held at NAN conventions. A website was initially developed in 2002, and subsequently revised in 2006 under the leadership of Drs. Laura Renteria, Shelley Peery, and Tedd Judd in order to provide Spanish-speaking resources to neuropsychologists and provide organizational information plus a member directory. A discussion LISTSERV was created in 2007, which has been an active part of the organization, enabling members to discuss Spanish tests and cases among colleagues. Recently, Dr. David Lechuga reestablished HNS as a 501(c)(3) entity in 2015, enabling sponsorships and tax-deductible donations to be made to the organization.

Greater efforts in education and research have taken place since the HNS organizational structure was formed in the early 2000s. At the request of the NAN BOD, HNS also formed a project in 2002 to establish a NAN/HNS guidelines paper focused on the evaluation of Spanish speakers, which was published in 2009 (Judd et al. 2009). With regard to education focusing on test development, HNS (under the leadership of Drs. Gina Navarrete, Tedd

Judd, and Shelley Peery) developed a Spanish Test Database in 2008 that is available to members, and includes reviews of 170 neuropsychology tests, normative data, and references with publisher information. HNS, through the efforts of Dr. Heather Rodas Romero, established a Training Database in 2008 for members that highlights graduate, practicum, internship, and postdoctoral programs that offer opportunities to gain experience in Hispanic/Latino neuropsychology. In 2011, HNS began offering small student grants. HNS also developed a strong organizational partnership with NAN, and in 2011, HNS cosponsored several continuing education (CE) lectures at the annual NAN meeting in Marco Island, Florida. Speakers included Drs. Kristin Krueger, James Choca, Juan Carlos Arango Lasprilla, and Lillian Flores. HNS members have also played key roles in planning NAN programming such as Diversity Grand Rounds (Shelley Peery), Diversity Awards (David Lechuga), and serving on NAN Diversity Committees (Drs. David Lechuga, Jose LaFosse, Christine Salinas, Shelley Peery, Melissa Castro). HNS has continued its efforts in establishing partnerships with other organizations such as cohosting a forensic neuropsychology conference with St. John's University in New York City in 2014. More recently, HNS members have been invited as speakers for continuing education (CE) presentations at other neuropsychology conferences for programming on diversity topics at the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN) annual meetings in 2014 and 2016 (Drs. Christine Salinas, Clemente Vega, Veronica Bordes Edgar). A potential HNS/AACN guidelines project on the evaluation of Spanish-speaking Hispanic/Latino children has also been underway since 2013.

A recent major HNS achievement has been the shift toward developing independent CE programming to bolster professional development and further awareness of cultural neuropsychology through advocacy. In 2010, HNS held its first one-day pre-conference at INS in Acapulco entitled, "Próximos Pasos: The Next Steps in Hispanic Neuropsychology." There were three themes to the conference: Mexico, Assessment, and the Neuropsi family of tests (Neuropsi

Breve, Neuropsi Atención y Memoria, Neuropsi Funciones Ejecutivas, and Evaluacion Neuropsicologica Infantil). There were 45 attendees with 10 presentations and 3 panel discussions (speakers included Drs. Tedd Judd, Xavier E. Cagigas, Esmeralda Matute, Laura Renteria, Antonio Puente, Feggy Ostrosky, Jacqueline Abrisqueta, Monica Rivera-Mindt on behalf of Gina Navarrete, and David Lechuga).

In 2015, HNS hosted a one-day independent CE conference in Austin, "From Houston to Austin: Suggested Enhancements to the Houston Conference Guidelines" with over 60 attendees, including leaders from various neuropsychological organizations such as AACN, American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN), APA Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (SCN; formerly known as "Division 40"), APA, Association for Internship Training in Clinical Neuropsychology (AITCN), and Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN). The focus of the conference was to address the following: (1) practices in cultural neuropsychology, (2) training concerns, (3) gaps in the Houston Conference Guidelines as they relate to diversity and culture, (4) National Institute of Health mandates to deliver culturally competent and equitable care, and (5) cultural neuroscience. Several brief presentations and a facilitated brainstorming session took place (speakers included Drs. David Lechuga, Xavier E. Cagigas, Monica Rivera-Mindt, Christine Salinas, Rachel Casas, Antonio E. Puente, Paola A. Suarez, and Jennifer Manly, as well as presentations by then students Christina Eguizabal Love and Octavio Santos). Another recent HNS contribution was the development of webinar programming in 2015–2016 either independently or through partnership with other organizations such as SCN through the efforts of Drs. Katrina Belen, Christine Salinas, and Clemente Vega.

Mentoring has been a central focus of the HNS organization in order to improve diversification in the field of neuropsychology as well as to promote culturally competent neuropsychology practices with Hispanics/Latinos. The HNS BOD has demonstrated a strong commitment to mentoring students and early career professionals in leadership and advocacy efforts. For example,

Dr. Heather Rodas Romero served as the first HNS Student Representative (2007–2010) followed by Pedro Saez (2011–2012), Laura Gutierrez Valdez (2011–2012), Franchesca Arias (2012–2013), Octavio Santos (2013–2014), Christina Eguizabal Love (2015–2016), Johanna Rengifo Nevarez (2016–2017), and Beatriz MacDonale (2017–2018). Members at Large were then included into the BOD structure with Dr. Kristin Krueger serving the inaugural position in 2011 followed by Drs. Clemente Vega (2012–2013), Christine Salinas (2013–2014), Delia Silva (2014–2015), Gretchen Berrios Siervo (2015–2016), and Marcela Bonafina (2016–2017).

A HNS Mentoring Committee was informally created in 2010 through the suggestion and efforts of Dr. James Banos. HNS bylaws were amended in 2015 to formally establish the Mentoring Committee as part of the organization with Dr. Christine Salinas serving as the inaugural Chair. Mentoring events initially began as informal social gatherings and more recently as cosponsored mentoring sessions with AACN in 2014. The Mentoring Committee continues to have a presence at all major neuropsychology conferences to recruit members, and also promote discussions regarding cultural and Hispanic/Latino neuropsychology. Through the leadership of Dr. Christina Eguizabal Love, a HNS Student Association was formed in 2015. The Student Association works with the Mentoring Committee and the HNS Board to ensure that student members are aware of HNS activities. The HNS Mentoring Committee under the leadership of Dr. Christine Salinas launched its first pilot mentoring program in 2016 to pair over 50 mentees-mentors from various stages of professional development. The goal was to foster mentoring relationships with an aim to better prepare mentees to meet the clinical and research demands for working with Hispanics/Latinos.

Future Directions

With the development of the HNS Strategic Plan in 2016 and its formal launch scheduled for early 2017, HNS has undergone a major

reorganization and formalized its status as a force in the world of cultural neuropsychology. Following the seminal Houston to Austin conference in 2015, HNS began to establish more formal liaison relationships with major neuropsychological organizations such as AACN, ABCN, NAN, INS, and SCN. Dr. Monica Rivera Mindt served as the inaugural HNS Interorganizational Liaison and successfully advocated for HNS to become a member of the Clinical Neuropsychology Synarchy in 2017. HNS has played an integral role in raising awareness and contributing expertise on issues of cultural neuropsychology that have been felt in the development of new training programs and even broader disciplinary initiatives, such as the AACN Relevance 2050 and Disruptive Technology Initiatives. New and ongoing international collaborations were fostered with representation from HNS at the 1st Iberoamerican Congress of Neuropsychology in Bilbao, Spain, in 2016. Former HNS President Dr. Antonio Puente being named the first Latino/Hispanic neuropsychologist to serve as President for the American Psychological Association in 2017 is further evidence of the expanding role and influence that HNS has come to represent in the world of psychology more broadly.

The HNS Strategic Plan, which will serve as the roadmap for the organization's ambitious future, is focused on five priority areas including: Science and Culture, Empirically supported Practice and Culture, Policy and Engagement,

Knowledge and Training, and Organizational Effectiveness. With the recent reestablishment of HNS as a nonprofit, the coming years will likely focus on building greater institutional infrastructure to support a more mainstream role of HNS advocating for a more inclusive cultural neuropsychology on a global scale. HNS members continue to develop new training and research programs, as well as thriving bilingual clinical practices and innovative programs that will undoubtedly continue to impact the broader discipline of clinical neuropsychology in many ways for generations to come.

See Also

► [Hispanic/Latino Neuropsychology](#)

References and Reading

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