



New York State Association of Neuropsychology Newsletter



Inside this Issue:

Message from the President	2
Highlight: Student Education Initiative	3
Committee Updates	
Insurance Committee	3
Scholastic Committee	3
Communication & Social Media Committee (CASM)	4
Pediatric Interest Professional Affairs Committee (PIPAC)	5
NEURONS Subcommittee	6
Social Media Subcommittee	6
Legislative Committee (L-Comm)	7
Congratulations to our ABCN specialists!	8
New Launch: Mentorship Program	8
NYSAN PAC	8
Upcoming Events	9
Board of Directors	9

Highlights

- Student Education Initiative - page 3
- Everyone Reads Conference - page 5
- New Mentorship Program - page 8

Coming up:



- **NYSAN Town Hall** - Thursday, Sept 18th, 12-1 pm
- **NYSAN Fall Social** - Thursday, Sept 25th, 6-8 pm

Message from the President

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." – Henry Ford



Dear NYSAN Members,

Since our Winter newsletter, we have navigated numerous changes both as individuals and as an organization, amidst the evolving landscape of our country. This spring, our collective efforts have been instrumental in addressing several critical issues. We have steadfastly supported equity and inclusion, aimed efforts at protecting and maintaining essential resources for colleagues facing changes in research funding, and continued to work toward advancing significant legislative initiatives.

I am deeply grateful to our new board members, committees, and the entire membership for your unwavering dedication. Your commitment and collaboration are the cornerstones of our success.

In this issue of our newsletter, you will find updates on key legislative activities related to School Psychology, Dyslexia, and PSYPACT. We are also closely monitoring developments in Prescription Policy, Scope of Practice, and efforts to reduce delays in obtaining limited permits for postdoctoral fellows. Additionally, we have launched additional student-focused initiatives through the NEURONS subcommittee.

Our new website is now live, and we are actively working to enhance its functionality. These improvements will better support Board Certification mentorship, Continuing Education (CE) offerings, access to valuable resources, and highlight committee efforts. Additionally, the website will provide information on how you can support and participate in our policy and advocacy initiatives.

We hope you have had the chance to attend some of our recent CE workshops. We also invite you to join us for upcoming member events designed to strengthen our community, including the NYSAN Social in September.

Inside this newsletter, you will find detailed updates from our various committees and subcommittees. We are always enthusiastic about engaging our members more actively. If you are interested in contributing to our ongoing initiatives, please contact the Chairs or Co-Chairs.

It continues to be an honor to serve as NYSAN's president. Together, we will continue to make meaningful strides in the field of neuropsychology.

Respectfully,

Daniela Montalto

Highlight: Student Education Initiative

In response to the federal grant/program terminations and proposed budget cuts for scientific research by the current administration, this month nine NYSAN members, Hilary Bertisch, Chriscelyn Tussey, Heather Henkell, Bill Tsang, Hilary Gomes, Jolene Trimm, Lynn Schaefer, Shahal Rozenblatt, and Allan Yozawitz, **began an initiative to educate the general public, and especially those who are less knowledgeable about science, about the real-world implications of these actions.**

We initially plan to outreach seniors through religious institutions and parents through PTA's and parenting groups, among other channels. We plan to target areas of our expertise that these groups may be most interested in (i.e., ADHD for parents, memory disorders for seniors, etc.) and then connect this to the impact of the cuts. In addition, we are working to enhance our NYSAN public social media pages so that we can post content relevant to this initiative. **We welcome all NYSAN members who are interested in joining this initiative, and hope that membership can help support us by sharing our public NYSAN and Instagram pages with their friends and family (particularly those who are less science-informed) and by contributing content.**



Heather Henkell, PhD

We remain interested in hearing from NYSAN members about reimbursement or professional issues they are experiencing and are looking for new committee members, especially early career providers, which can be forwarded to DrHenkell@LINSLLC.com. If interested in joining our meetings, which are scheduled for the third Tuesday at 12pm, please email: DrHenkell@LINSLLC.com.

Insurance Committee

The mission of the insurance committee is to work with NYSAN members to remedy problems with insurance coverage and address other issues that affect the practice of clinical neuropsychology. We are **currently focusing on addressing issues regarding transparency and network adequacy.**

Committee Chair:
Heather Henkell

Committee Members:
Bridget Amatore
Cindy Breitman
Terri Copans
Ingrid Hansen
Stephen Honor

Scholastic Committee

The Scholastic Committee's update is that **we co-hosted a Student Outreach panel with NYNG on April 28th**, which was very successful. There were over 30 students in attendance, from both city and upstate schools.

Our committee plans to have another outreach, this one a lunchtime program, sometime in the fall. We are also seeking to publish our outreach paper, and have been contacting journals.



Lynn Schaefer, PhD, ABPP-CN



Hilary Bertisch, PhD, ABPP-CN

Committee Co-chairs:
Hilary Bertisch
Lynn Schaefer

Committee Members:
Isabelle Avildsen
Sophie Schiff

Communication and Social Media Committee (CASM)

The Communications and Social Media Committee (CASM) has been actively engaged since the start of the year. Most recently, we organized a well-received webinar focused on preparing for the ABPP Clinical Neuropsychology board certification exam (see image below). In addition to programming, we have continued refining the newly updated NYSAN website to better serve our membership.

Looking ahead, CASM remains committed to expanding our social media outreach and exploring innovative ways to connect neuropsychologists across New York State. We are also developing strategies to enhance engagement with neuropsychology consumers, an area we believe holds great potential for public education and advocacy.

We are pleased to spotlight the enthusiasm of our current team and welcome new members—particularly students and early career professionals interested in social media content creation and digital communications. Those who join will have opportunities to contribute to meaningful outreach efforts and shape how we represent our field to both professional and public audiences. If interested, reach out to drbilltsang@gmail.com or Eltonnelle.James@stonybrookmedicine.edu.

Committee Co-chairs:

Eltonelle James
Bill Tsang

CE Co-chairs:

Brittany Bascetta
Elisa Livanos

Website Admin:

Gennaro DiCarlo

Committee Members:

Cindy Breitman
Carolyn Certilman
Amanda Hahn-Ketter
Paul Mattis
Emily Errera

Student Members:

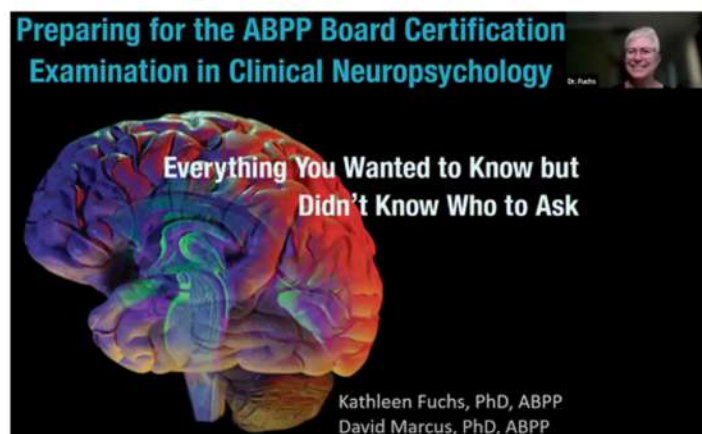
Rachel Schecter
Jessica Wasserman



Bill Tsang, PsyD



Eltonelle James, PsyD



Pediatric Interest Professional Affairs Committee (PIPAC)



Hilary Gomes, PhD, APBdN



Daniela Montalto, PhD



Nicole Katz, PsyD

Highlights

- Learning Loss CE took place
- Dyslexia bill passed - Work of the Dyslexia Insurance Work Group
- IEE tip sheet created and is/will be posted on website
- Completed yearly check-ins with current members
- Journal club finished discussing writing and moved on the discussing math

PIPAC is also very excited for the clinical and professional growth of Paula Zuffante's practice and understand her need to step away from the committee at this time. We will miss her presence on the committee, her contributions have been immeasurable, particularly her initiation and organization of our Peds Journal Club (JC)! If anyone has an interest in attending JC, it will continue to meet every six weeks - please reach out to PIPAC chairs for details.



Spotlight: Is It Dyslexia? Shahal Rozenblatt, Ph.D., Clinical Neuropsychologist, Advanced Psychological Assessment, PC; Elizabeth Axel, Ph.D., Clinical Neuropsychologist and Licensed Psychologist, Nassau Neuropsychological Services, PLLC; Ara Nazmiyal, M.A., School Psychology Doctoral Candidate, Teachers College, Columbia University

A neuropsychological evaluation benefits children with reading difficulties by identifying underlying issues beyond dyslexia. Research shows not all reading challenges qualify for a Learning Disability diagnosis. We will explore other neurodevelopmental disorders and cognitive skills impacting reading, often mistaken for Dyslexia. Identifying these co-morbid disorders and cognitive weaknesses helps focus interventions and services for better support.

Committee Co-chairs:

Hilary Gomes
Daniela Montalto
Nicole Katz

Committee Members:

Linda LaMarca
Stephen Honor
Laura Philips
Jennifer Rosenberg
Paula Labarge Zuffante
Larry Hess
Elizabeth Axel
Shahal Rozenblatt
Ava Dorfmann
Lindsay Plunkett
Shoshana May
Sepideh Homayoonfar
Emily Kurlansik
Matt Pagirsky
David Sukiennik
Patricia Pehme
Amira Hanna
Rebecca Fontanetta

Student Members:

Sarah Mandelbaum
Tamar Buechler
Veronica Milito
Jessie Beshara
Olivia Rogers
Pia Parekh

NEURONS Subcommittee

Sub-Committee Co-chairs:

Sarah Mandelbaum
Shoshana May
Matt Pagirsky

- We have had two NEURONS meetings with our committee members.
- We are about to launch the NYSAN student membership listserve and initiative as a whole.



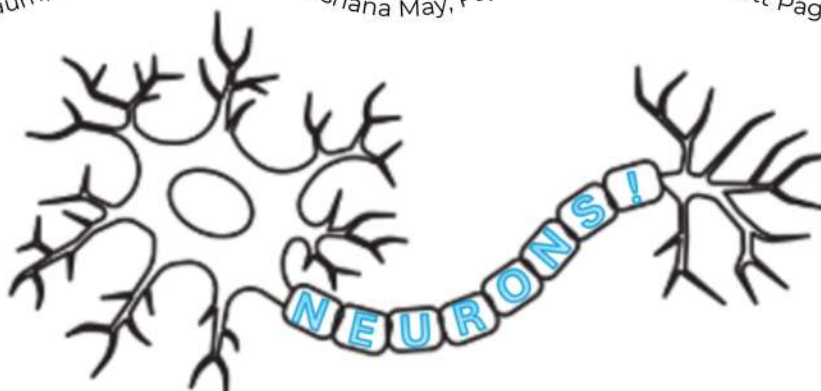
Sarah Mandelbaum, PhD



Shoshana May, PsyD



Matt Pagirsky, PsyD



Social Media Subcommittee

The NYSAN Social Media Subcommittee was organized this past summer as a joint effort of CASM and PIPAC to build a dynamic digital presence aimed at raising public awareness of neuropsychology and engaging diverse audiences.

The subcommittee invites members to contribute to these efforts, whether by developing new social media elements or supporting ongoing projects. Contact Bill Tsang (drtsangpsyd@gmail.com) or Emily Kurlansik (emily@doc-emily.com) to get involved.



Emily Kurlansik, PsyD



William Tsang, PsyD

Sub-Committee Co-chairs:

Bill Tsang
Emily Kurlansik

Legislative Committee



Chris Morrison, PhD, ABPP



Lindsay Plunkett, PhD

L-Comm has been very busy over the last several months despite the legislative break. Among the tasks completed, we were successful in (1) partnering with NYSPA to generate edits to the MA level school psychologist bill so that we are prepared to respond once this bill is reintroduced this session (see below), (2) creating a dyslexia workgroup within NYSAN to gather information on concerns and implementation challenges from our membership regarding how insurers are applying/not applying the text of the Dyslexia Act (now signed into law), (3) organizing the aforementioned concerns and generating a dyslexia billing tracker (now shared with membership) so that we can efficiently track concerns as they arise over the next several months, and (4) sharing a memo and meeting with the legislators who generated and advocated for the Dyslexia Act to express our concerns about the language of the act and to support an effort to address these issues with the Department of Financial Services (DFS).

As for this legislative season, L-Comm continues to be grateful for our partnership with Whiteman, Osterman, & Hanna (WOH). At this time, we are preparing for the NYS budget to be finalized and for legislative activity to more formally begin. This legislative season promises to be active, with bills from last season being reintroduced as well as additional bills of interest being introduced for the first time. In the coming months, look for updates from L-Comm regarding efforts to support or oppose bills of interest.

Highlights regarding specific bills of interest to NYSAN:

- MA level school psychologists practicing outside of a school setting
 - Again, while this bill did not make any significant gains in 2024, it is expected to be a significant focus of NSYAN's attention this season.
- Prescriptive Authority for Psychologists
 - WOH suggested that this bill may be more active this year. NYSAN will keep the membership updated regarding when grassroots efforts will become important.
- New this season: Licensed Mental Health Providers expansion of scope of practice to include the privilege to diagnose and develop assessment-based treatment plans
 - L-Comm has been expecting this issue to move forward. As of 5/9/2025, we were made aware that two bills related to this issue have been introduced. We have started preparations for our initial response.
- The Title VIII PLLC Bill, would allow psychologists and other providers to form a practice without a physician among the group.
 - NYSAN had previously co-signed a memo of support (with numerous other Title VIII organizations) for this bill. This memo was recently sent again to bill sponsors, committee chairs and members, and central staff.

Again, stay tuned for guidance on how to approach the above bills. We look forward to partnering with our membership to move necessary initiatives forward and to oppose those that contradict the ethics and standards of our profession.

Committee Co-chairs:

Chris Morrison
Lindsay Plunkett

Committee Members:

Bridget Amatore
Amanda E. Hahn-Ketter
MaryKay Pavol
Evan Schulze
Daniela Montalto
Christina G. Wong

Student Members:

Andrew Fox
Natalie Toomajian

Congratulations to Drs. Marnina Stimmel, Gennaro DiCarlo, and Shawn Mordhorst for passing the ABPP-CN



Marnina Stimmel, PhD, ABPP



Gennaro DiCarlo, Psy.D., ABPP



Shawn Mordhorst, Psy.D., ABPP

For mentorship for Board Certification or questions in general, check out our updated way to access mentoring or be a mentor at www.the-nysan.org/mentor-program. For any questions, feel free to email Cindy Breitman (cbreitman@bncnyc.com).

NYSAN MENTORSHIP FORM

Please complete the appropriate form below according to your interest.

MENTORS

Thank you for your interest and consideration in assisting others who are pursuing board certification.

Signing up is not obligating you to a commitment but rather showing your interest in being a volunteer. If there is a match, we will reach out to you to determine if you have the time and availability to help out.

Your Name *

First

Last

MENTEES

Are you working toward board certification in neuropsychology?

Let us help guide you through the process!

Your Name *

First

Last

Your Email Address *

Cell Number *

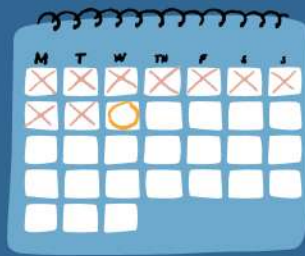
NYSAN Political Action Committee

We're gathering people to support the profession of clinical neuropsychology. Please make your 2025 contribution to NYSAN POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC) today.

The NYSAN PAC was formed to enable clinical neuropsychologists to advance, promote and protect our professional interests and the patients we serve. The NYSAN PAC is a vehicle to support candidates for public office and other political committees as permitted by the New York State Election Law.

You can help by donating money to the PAC. PAC donors will be acknowledged on NYSAN's website and in its publications.

Visit <https://www.the-nysan.org/political-action-committee> to donate today!



Upcoming Events

Thursday, Sept 18th: Town Hall

Thursday, Sept 25th: Fall Social

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Daniela Montalto

Secretary:

Brittany Bascetta

Treasurer:

Elisa Livanos

Board Members:

Heather Henkell, Laura Phillips, Shahal Rozenblatt,
Hilary Gomes, & Lindsay Plunkett



Thank you for your continued commitment to NYSAN,
We look forward to advancing neuropsychology together
in 2025 and beyond!