



New York State Association of Neuropsychology Newsletter



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Highlights

- Welcoming two **new board members**: Drs. Hilary Gomes and Lindsay Plunkett
- Introducing two **new subcommittees**:
 - Social Media Subcommittee (under CASM)
 - NEURONS Subcommittee (under PIPAC)
- **New website launches** in January
- Dyslexia Task Force presented their report to the Governor on December 20th
- Drs. Lisa Glukhovsky and Eric Watson **passed the ABPP-CN examination** - congrats!

Coming up:



- NYSAN Meet Ups in Spring
 - Learning Loss CE - Jan 22nd*
 - Capacity and Guardianship - April 10th*
- *full list on page 6*

Message from the President

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has”

– Margaret Mead

As we close out 2024, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments of our organization and to share my appreciation of all of you.

To start, we have three integral Board members who are transitioning off the board this year: Drs. Cindy Breitman, Jami Halpern, and Sarah Powell. We are truly grateful for their service and expertise over their tenure on the board. We are fortunate that Drs. Breitman and Halpern will remain active within NYSAN, and we wish Dr. Powell the best of luck in her new role at CHOP. Furthermore, I am delighted to welcome our new board members, Drs. Hilary Gomes and Lindsay Plunkett, and to thank our NYSAN members who remain on the board for their continued dedication. Together, along with our NYSAN members, we plan to continue to advance initiatives related to policy, advocacy, clinical care, and training.

Reflecting on this past year, NYSAN has made significant strides in our advocacy and policy efforts. We successfully supported and placed a NYSAN member on the Dyslexia Task Force, collaborated and influenced legislation related to insurance coverage for Dyslexia, and engaged in collaborative efforts with NYSPA in shaping policy related to the scope of practice of School Psychology. We also provided pertinent CE Workshops covering relevant topics and engaged in opportunities to help inform the public on areas of neuropsychology, including having a strong presence at local conferences, developing parent and practitioner-friendly Tip Sheets, and building our social media outreach.

In 2025, we aim to continue working with our lobbyists and committee leaders to provide guidance on amendments to the current Dyslexia and condition-specific bills, more directly engage in grassroots efforts related to Prescription Policy, and address issues related to delays in obtaining limited permits for postdoctoral fellows and concerns regarding specialty licensure. In addition to these policy and advocacy efforts, we have new initiatives to support our student members on the horizon, the launch of a new website, and a revised CE workshop series and Member events that aim to bring our community together.

Enclosed in this newsletter, you will find additional details and updates on our committees and subcommittees. We are always looking to involve our members. Please reach out to the Chairs/Co-Chairs if you are interested in becoming more directly involved.

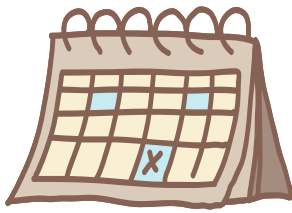
It has been a pleasure to serve as your president over this year, and I look forward to continuing to work together on areas important in furthering the field of Neuropsychology. Wishing you and your families wonderful holidays and a peaceful and prosperous new year.

Respectfully,

Daniela Montalto



Annual NYSAN Social



We held our **annual social and recognition event in Manhattan in September** and had a great time with our colleagues and met some of our wonderful student affiliates! We look forward to more of these events in the future.

Be on the look out! CASM is planning another fun NYSAN event in the upcoming Spring.



Dr. Becca Martin received the **Distinguished Service Award** - thank you for all you do!!



Legislative Committee (L-Comm)



Chris Morrison, PhD, ABPP



Lindsay Plunkett, PhD

We are excited to share news of a shift in leadership within the legislative committee for 2025. **Lindsay Plunkett, a recently elected Board member, will take the role of Legislative Committee Chair with Chris Morrison stepping into a Co-Chair role.** We are extremely pleased to have the next generation of leaders take their place on behalf of the organization.

NYSAN's partnership with Whiteman Osterman, & Hanna (WOH) continues to go extremely well. They advised that as a result of the 2024 election, there will be considerable changes in leadership across many of the legislative committees of interest to NYSAN. While there is no information yet on who the new Chairs are and/or how the legislative committee memberships might change, WOH is highly focused on this information and will inform NYSAN as it becomes available. Once this information is in hand, NYSAN will reformulate strategies for supporting/opposing (as appropriate) legislative initiatives of interest.

With the opening of the 2025 legislative session, all bills that are introduced will have new bill numbers. NYSAN's Legislative Committee is poised to integrate that information into our communications with legislators and other stakeholders. This is particularly important to **our grassroots activities as the letters submitted by our members and by NYSAN itself need the 2025**

identifying information to ensure that our outreach is correctly processed by the individuals/groups/organizations we are reaching out to.

Highlights of the specific legislation of interest to NYSAN:

The practice of MA level school psychologists practicing outside of a school setting

- This bill did not make any gains in 2024 relative to previous legislative sessions, however, it will be a significant focus of NYSAN's attention as we watch for any change in this status.

Prescriptive Authority for Psychologists

- Given the controversy around this topic (i.e., groups with strong support and strong opposition), this initiative was not expected to have any significant activity in the 2024 session as legislators specifically indicated they would not be moving controversial bills during the short session with committee leadership roles in flux. NYSAN will be looking to bring on deck a grassroots effort to move this initiative forward in 2025.

Bills related to diagnostic, treatment, and insurance coverage for services related to dyslexia

- This was rich territory in the 2024 legislative session as there are several NYS legislators with a personal interest in the area. We will be tracking to determine if the 8-10 bills relating to dyslexia are reintroduced in 2025.

The PLLC bill that would allow psychologists and other providers to form a practice without a physician among the group

- For the reasons related to RxP above, there was no movement on this bill.



Committee Co-chairs:
Chris Morrison
New: Lindsay Plunkett

Committee Members:
Bridget Amatore
Amanda E. Hahn-Ketter
MaryKay Pavol
Evan Schulze
Daniela Montalto

Student Member:
Andrew Fox

Continued on next page

L-Comm cont.

Insurance coverage for neuropsychological services as relate to specific conditions

- The Legislative Committee has been collaborating with other legislative and patient-advocate groups on ideas for legislation that may increase the ability of people to access neuropsychological services to improve outcomes. We look forward to continuing this effort in 2025.

Within the NYS Education Department, there is a **new Secretary of the Office of the Professions**. With the assistance of our partners at WOH, we look forward to forging a relationship with the new Secretary and revisiting some of the issues that had been topics of discussion with the SED (e.g., delays in getting limited permits for postdoctoral fellows, specialty licensure).

Insurance Committee

Committee Chair:

Heather Henkell

Committee Members:

Bridget Amatore
Cindy Breitman
Terri Copans
Ingrid Hansen
Stephen Honor

The mission of the Insurance Committee (formerly Professional Affairs & Information Committee) is to **advocate for neuropsychologists and accessible neuropsychological care for our patients in New York State, by working with members to remedy problems with insurance that affect the practice of clinical neuropsychology**. We are currently addressing issues regarding transparency and network adequacy and will be following the implementation of the new law requiring coverage of assessment for Dyslexia.

We are 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.

Please join our meetings scheduled for the third Tuesday at 12 pm (links will be sent to the listserv) or send the information/questions to DrHenkell@LINSLLC.com



Heather Henkell, PhD

Scholastic Committee

We hosted a **successful Lunchtime Brown Bag outreach for students on October 18, 2024**. We are hoping to publish an outreach paper. We recently updated the latest draft and added new survey data.

Thanks to Luba Nakhutina, who presented to Brooklyn Tech HS Career Day in early November; Scholastic Committee provided some materials. Isabelle Avildsen is currently working on our HS database. We will be reaching out to NYNG soon regarding joint spring outreach efforts. **We welcome new members and presenters!**



Committee Co-chairs:

Hilary Bertisch
Lynn Schaefer

Committee Members:

Isabelle Avildsen
Sophie Schiff



Lynn Schaefer, PhD, ABPP-CN



Hilary Bertisch, PhD, ABPP-CN

Communication and Social Media Committee (CASM)

CASM continues to provide our members with CE webinars that have been very well attended. We had a **three-part series related to forensic work and recently an overview of AI in Neuropsychology**. Members can visit the NYSAN website to view past webinars as home studies. All past webinars are eligible for 1 CE credit following successful completion of the program evaluation and a passing score on the post-test.

We have also been collaborating with members of PIPAC to improve our social media involvement. This includes **regular posts on our Facebook, Instagram, and Linked In accounts that benefit both the professional audience as well as our patients and their families**. These groups, with the help of many involved student members, have been doing a great job getting important information out to our community.

We held our annual social and recognition event in Manhattan in September and had a wonderful time with our colleagues! We appreciate everyone who came to spend time with us and look forward to more of these events in the future.

CASM aims to plan a NYSAN night out and some Student Focused events early in 2025!

their time as co-chairs in the last two years. As well, Brittany will be joining Elisa as the CE co-chair to continue to keep our webinars running!

Contact Bill Tsang (Williamf.tsang@gmail.com) or Eltonnelle James (Eltonnelle.James@stonybrookmedicine.edu) for more information.



Bill Tsang, PsyD



Eltonnelle James, PsyD

New Website Launch

- Post about Job Opportunities
- Access to CE workshops
- Committee updates
- Membership renewal
- Board certification Mentoring
- & more!!



Becca Martin, PhD, ABPP-CN



Jami Halpern, PsyD

Committee Co-chairs:

Becca Martin
 Jami Halpern
New: Eltonnelle James
New: 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 Schechter
 Jessica Wasserman

Upcoming CE's



- January 22** - Learning Loss
- February TBD** - Perinatal talk with Dr. Danielle Knafo & colleague
- March TBD** - Pending topic

- April 10** - Capacity and Guardianship with Dr. Lynn Schaefer
- May TBD** - Pending topic

A full list of available self-study webinars, as of Dec 2024, is available on page 10 of this issue. We are **restructuring our continuing education webinar series by expanding existing tracks**, including clinical matters, business and administration, and forensics, while **introducing a new series on training and career development**. We welcome member feedback on topics of interest or suggestions for future talks! **Please email Brittany Bascetta or Elisa Livanos regarding CE's.**

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**. Initial efforts have focused on Facebook and Instagram, with plans to expand to LinkedIn and TikTok.

Sub-Committee Co-chairs:
 Bill Tsang
 Emily Kurlansik

A comprehensive social media kit is under development, featuring templates and branding tools created in Canva to ensure consistent, professional posts. The team is also streamlining processes with tools like automated calendar reminders and universal hashtag lists for easy content management.

The subcommittee is prioritizing topics **designed to educate and engage the public, including introductory posts about neuropsychology, comparisons of 504 Plans and IEPs, ADHD across the lifespan, and a Brain Health Series covering sleep, nutrition, and exercise**. These efforts will launch in the new year. While this subcommittee focuses on public-facing content, the broader CASM committee has been creating content geared toward NYSAN membership and the neuropsychology community, with posts highlighting continuing education opportunities and spotlighting students and professionals.

Together, **these initiatives aim to raise awareness of neuropsychology across New York State while fostering professional growth and engagement within NYSAN's network**. 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

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



www.facebook.com/thenysan



[@nysan_ig](https://www.instagram.com/nysan_ig)



<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8131255/>

Pediatric Interest Professional Affairs Committee (PIPAC)



Hilary Gomes, PhD, APBdN



Daniela Montalto, PhD



Nicole Katz, PsyD

Committee Co-chairs:

Hilary Gomes
Daniela Montalto
New: 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*
***on temporary leave**

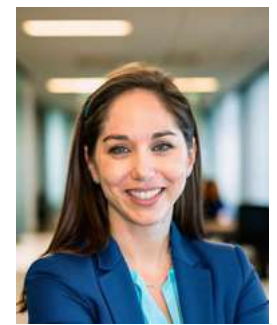
Student Members:

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

We are excited to have **Dr. Nicole Katz join PIPAC leadership as a Co-Chair** in the New Year. We are grateful for her contributions over her tenure and look forward to her support. We would like to start by sincerely thanking the members of the committee for their ongoing participation and dedication.

In the past six months, PIPAC has continued to grow and has added 3 new members. **Dr. David Sukiennik joined the committee this fall as a full member, Olivia Rogers is our new Graduate Student, and Pia Parekh is our first Undergraduate Student.** We are thrilled to have them. However, we are sad to be **saying goodbye to our long-term member, Dr. Sarah Powell, who has moved out of state.** December was her last meeting and she will be missed!!

Concerning legislation, the bill providing **insurance coverage** for comprehensive neuropsychological evaluations for Dyslexia has passed and moved to the governor's desk. She is expected to sign it with minor edits. Furthermore, the **Dyslexia Task Force, which includes PIPAC's Dr. Laura Phillips (see right) as a member, has completed their report which was presented to the Governor on December 20th.**



Notably, **Dr. Paula Labarge Zuffante (see left) attended one of the public hearings and provided written testimony to the Task Force.** The report will be made public soon. In addition to the Dyslexia bill, PIPAC's **Drs. Lindsay Plunkett and Sarah Powell have continued to work alongside L-Comm on the Master's Level School Psychology Practitioner bill and the Pediatric Oncology bill.** Issues on the horizon include Prescription Privileges and limited licensure/licensing delays for fellows.

In addition to our focus on policy, our committee continues to work on improving the visibility and understanding of the role of pediatric neuropsychology in the community and among our peers. As part of PIPAC's mission to **increase access to accurate information** on Pediatric Neuropsychology topics, committee members work on

workshops and literature to disseminate, both as white papers and as tips and fact sheets for parents and providers. In the incoming year, **Drs. Elizabeth Axel and Shahal Rozenblatt** and a student who will be joining PIPAC in the new year, **Ara Nazmiyal, have submitted a proposal for a talk entitled "Is**

PIPAC cont.

It Dyslexia?" to the Everyone Reading Conference which will take place in NYC on March 3rd and 4th, 2025. Additionally, **Drs. Elizabeth Axel and Ava Dorfmann have finalized a tip sheet titled, "How to ask for an IEE,"** in their series of parent tip and fact sheets on Commonly Asked Questions to help **increase access to neuropsychological evaluations.**

We have a dedicated focus on issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

To achieve our mission, **Drs. Emily Kurlansik, Sarah Mandelbaum, and Pia Parekh continue to collaborate with CASM to expand NYSAN's social media presence.** The goal of these efforts is to increase the visibility and understanding of Pediatric Neuropsychology through monthly posts on social media platforms.

Drs. Philips and Plunkett, with the support of Drs. Linda LaMarca, Daniela Montalto, and our postdoctoral fellows and graduate student members are conducting a literature review on Learning Loss in the Context of the Covid-19 Pandemic. They are also developing a diagnostic decision tree for learning disorders and researching the access to intervention and the rise in school refusal post-pandemic. A webinar on Learning Loss is scheduled for **January 22, 2025.**

Our **Journal Club (JC), led by Dr. Zuffante,** continues to meet regularly, reviewing relevant journal articles, text chapters, and audio/video materials to help members review historical and current literature. Recent meetings focused on **written language,** exploring seminal papers, evidence-based interventions and remediation programs, and clinical case studies.

Graduate and postdoctoral level students, guided by Dr. Montalto, have been instrumental in initiatives like **NEURONS, led by Drs. Sarah Mandelbaum and Shoshana May** (more info below). Additionally, PIPAC members focus on **Pediatric Insurance Issues under Dr. LaMarca's leadership.** Future goals include supporting DEI initiatives related to Pediatric Neuropsychological Evaluations.

NEURONS Subcommittee

Sub-Committee Co-chairs:

Sarah Mandelbaum
Shoshana May
Matt Pagirsky

Introducing a new subcommittee under PIPAC, **NEURONS (Networking, Education, Unified Resources, and Opportunities for Neuropsychology Students)!** We are excited to formalize the Graduate Student Volunteer Initiative, originally initiated 4 years ago by Drs. Daniela Montalto and Sarah Mandelbaum. Due to the growth and student interest, the initiative has been developed into a formal subcommittee under PIPAC.



Our goal is to recruit student members, place interested student members on committees, and provide education and support on training in the field of neuropsychology across the lifespan and within New York. We are looking forward to doing outreach to DCTs, standardizing the process of student members joining committees, and providing opportunities to them for support and education.



Sarah Mandelbaum, PhD



Shoshana May, PsyD



Matt Pagirsky, PsyD

Congratulations to Drs. Lisa Glukhovsky and Eric Watson for passing the ABPP-CN

**Want mentorship through the Board Certification steps?
Email Cindy Breitman
(cbreitman@bncnyc.com).**



Lisa Glukhovsky, Ph.D., ABPP



Eric Watson, Ph.D., ABPP

Available Self-study Webinars

- [The Role of the Neuropsychologist in Cases of **Anti-NMDA Receptor Encephalitis**](#) by Lindsey Harik, Ph.D.
- [Elements of **Holistic Neuropsychological Rehabilitation**](#) by Shinakee Gumber, PhD, ABPP
- [Testing Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Research-Based Practice](#) by Ben Lovett, Ph.D.
- [CTE Update for Neuropsychologists](#) by William Barr, Ph.D., ABPP
- [The Manifestation of **Racial Microaggressions**: Implications for Clinical Practice](#) by Gina C. Torino, Ph.D.
- [Board Certification in Neuropsychology: What to Know to Get Started](#) by Lynn Schaefer, Ph.D., ABPP-CN
- [Reporting and Describing **Standardized Data** in Neuropsychological Reports for the Layman: What is Normal?](#) by David Layman, PhD, ABPP
- [Functional Neurological Disorders: Diagnosis and Conceptualization for Clinical Practice](#) by Jennifer M. Stinson, Ph.D., ABPP-CN
- [Short and Long-Term Cognitive and Emotional Consequences of **COVID-19**](#) by Lyanne Yozawitz, Ph.D.
- [Sometimes David Wins: The Road to Psychologists' Prescriptive Authority](#) by Beth N. Rom-Rymer, Ph.D.
- [Advanced Report Writing](#) by Stephanie Nelson, Ph.D., ABPP, ABPdN
- [Psychological Evaluations for **Individuals Seeking Asylum** in the United States: Rewards, Challenges, and Impact of the Assessment Process](#) by Abhishek Jaywant, Ph.D.
- [The Role of Neuropsychology in the Assessment of Competencies for **Older Workers**](#) by Susan McPherson, Ph.D., ABPP LP
- [Overview of **Multiple Sclerosis**: What Neuropsychologists Should Know](#) by Marnina Stimmel, Ph.D.
- [Introduction to **Forensic Evaluations** and Ethical Considerations for Neuropsychologists](#) by Johnathan DeRight, Ph.D., ABPP-CN & William Garmoe, Ph.D., ABPP-CN
- [Forensic Neuropsychology in 2024: Preparing Your Services for a New Era](#) by Chriscelyn Tussey, PsyD., ABPP & Stephen Honor, Ph.D., ABPP
- [Challenging, Controversial, and Cultural Concerns Issues Involving **Third-Party Observers \(TPOs\)** at Forensic Neuropsychological Evaluations in New York State](#) by Dave Layman, Ph.D., ABPP & Angeles Cheung, Ph.D., ABPP
- [Current Emotional Status WNL = We Never Looked!](#) by Allan Yozawitz, Ph.D., ABPP-CN
- [Using **Positive Ethics** to Address Contemporary Issues in Neuropsychology](#) by Chriscelyn Tussey, PsyD, ABPP

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!**