

# ANA NEWS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*"Five hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes. How do you measure a year in the life?"*

-Rent, the Musical

It's hard to believe that ANA is already a year old. They say time flies when you are having fun or busy, both of which accurately describe my year as ANA President.

We are currently 173 members strong with members from 10 different countries (U.S., Canada, India, England, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, Thailand, and Japan). Meeting and working together with many of you has been a great source of pleasure and pride.

All those "minutes" have certainly flown by fast. As we begin our second year in 2020, I would like to take this time to thank the hardworking members who were instrumental in making our first year a success. I offer my thanks and appreciation to:

- President-Elect Nick Thaler, for assisting with our nonprofit status application, presenting at our initial Student Committee Webinar and ANA-sponsored NAN event and working with the Japanese Resource Subcommittee: members Sonakshi Arora, Yuri Shishido, Maiko Sakamoto,

and Jennifer Yamashita.

- Treasurer Mimi Wong, for overseeing Membership recruitment (with assistant Thomas Nguyen), social events (with Social Committee chair, Preeti Sunderaraman), and members Angeles Cheung, Farzin Irani, Joyce Tam, Johannah Kang, Lindsay Vo, George Lin, Ashita Gurnani, Esther Chin, Rowena Ng, Jennifer Lee). Additionally, for collaborating with the Chinese Resource Subcommittee (with Co-Chair Esther Chin, Gabriel Qi, Shining Sun, Doris Hong, also Angeles Cheung, George Lin, Wen-Yu.Cheng, Michelle Chen, and Cecilia Han).
- Secretary Lauren Mai, for taking minutes at our meetings, and overseeing our social media team: Jennifer Lai, website; Angeles Cheung, Facebook page; Chris Nguyen, Twitter; as well as Sara Chan and Vidya Kamath, newsletter editors (with contributors Farzin Irani and Ashita Gurnani). Additionally, for also overseeing the Vietnamese Resource Subcommittee: members Chris Nguyen, Lindsey Vo, and Thomas Nguyen).
- Board member-at-large Jasdeep Hundal, for overseeing the Mentoring Program (with mentors Farzin Irani, Christopher Nguyen, David Lee, Nick Thaler), Resource Development Committee, and

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the Indian Resource Subcommittee (members: Ashita Gurnani, Kamini Krishnan, Preeti Sunderaraman, Farzin Irani, and Khushonoo Indorewalla), liaising with NAN, and presenting at an ANA



**Daryl Fujii, PhD, ABPP-CN**  
ANA President

*(President's Message, cont'd)*

- Alexander Tan for overseeing our hardworking Student Committee: Judy Su, Trainee Membership Database; Gabriel Qi, Research Listserv Digest; Sara Chan, Student Newsletter Column; Jennifer Lee, Student Committee Social Events; Michelle Chen, Trainee Resource Development; and Hannah Darwazah, Student Recognition and Social Media. The future for ANA is bright with these young and talented leaders.
- David Lee for chairing the Korean Resource Committee (with members Jin Lee-Kim, Johanah Kang, and Grace Lee).
- Lovingly Park, Mario Dulay, Cherry Ordonez, and Rea

Romero of the Filipino Resource Subcommittee.

- Chris Nguyen for designing our logo.
- Monica Rivera-Mindt, Tedd Judd, David Lechuga, and the Hispanic Neuropsychological Society for their support and guidance.
- NAN President Teresa Roebuck Spencer for reaching out to ANA and forming a Memorandum of Cooperation.
- Glenn Howard Esq. for guiding us through the nonprofit organization application process.

Here's looking ahead to the New Year (Chinese Year of the Rat) and 2020 decade in furthering our mission of

increasing the availability of competent neuropsychological services for all Asians and building a community for neuropsychologists of Asian descent.

I humbly invite each of you to join us in achieving our goals. It's easy (*and fun!*). Join a committee. Write an article for the newsletter. Meet your peers at a conference social. Be a mentor. Invite a colleague to become a member. Post something on the listserv.

All it takes is a few "minutes" of your time.

*Mahalo.*

*Daryl Fujii*

## CALL FOR WRITERS!

### From the Editors:

We are delighted to provide support to members. As editors, we will aim to make the ANA Newsletter an enjoyable read from the formality and rigor of academia.

The ANA Newsletter is a biannual publication. We are always in search of contributors to provide fresh energy and content to best serve our members in their clinical endeavors. This includes writers with an eye for detail and creative flair for writing, those interested in connecting and interviewing featured neuropsychologists in the field, and contributors interested in writing opinion articles (op-ed).

We openly invite you to submit material for the Newsletter, including information intended for the Member Announcements column, to Sara Chan's attention at [sarachan@pacificu.edu](mailto:sarachan@pacificu.edu).

### ANA NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Sara Chan, MA

Vidya Kamath, PhD, ABPP-CN



Asian  
Neuropsychological  
Association

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ERNEST FUNG

*Hannah Darwazah, MA  
Sara Chan, MA*

*In every edition, we will be featuring different Asian neuropsychologists whose practice in the United States include working with patients from Asian backgrounds. We hope to illuminate the path of Asian neuropsychologists throughout their careers, their life experience, motivations, hopes, and journey to who they are today.*

*In our second edition, Hannah Darwazah interviewed Ernest Fung, PsyD, ABPP-CN.*

Dr. Ernest Fung was born in Hong Kong and later raised in the United Kingdom.

He is a board-certified neuropsychologist who is bilingual in English and Cantonese. His private practice primarily focuses on clinical and forensic neuropsychological evaluations.

He described his interest in multiculturalism beginning when he realized how his clinical approach intersected with his cultural background.

For example, he spoke about how—having lived in Hong Kong until age 13—he noticed cultural differences in the way rapport was built with patients, such as how Western clinicians tended to refer to patients by their first names, no matter their age.

### **How did you decide to return to school for neuropsychology?**

I was in IT executive search and finance/business research before going back to graduate school in clinical psychology.

I almost did a PhD in cognitive psychology back in the day in the United Kingdom. I always knew I'd return to psychology at some point. I didn't like my job at JP Morgan much, and I wanted to move to the United States (I was working in Hong Kong at the time), so the timing just worked.

*“When I go into a patient's room or greet a patient or a family member in the waiting room... as a male healthcare provider, a “doctor,” a Chinese person, a racial minority... I have to think about how would I be perceived and what I bring with me to the room.”*

### **What would you consider to be your sharpest growth edges during graduate training?**

Certainly, for neuropsychology, I learned the most about it during my internship and fellowship years. Not a surprise, I guess!



### **What were some of the pillars that helped build your career foundations today?**

I am very thankful to have had great mentors when I was in clinical training and the corporate world. They were gracious in sharing their expertise and experience. They gave me opportunities to aim high (and make mistakes!).

I have kept in touch with them over the years. I am once again working with one of my mentors, who is a well-respected TBI expert.

Undergoing postdoctoral training at a world-class TBI hospital certainly prepared me well for doing TBI work.

Later on, the work setting played a significant role in developing my expertise in other areas.

I was working in a smaller city with a large catchment area, and referrals were coming from multiple disciplines. This meant that apart from TBI, I had to be an expert in neurodegenerative disorders as well.

The breadth and depth of the clinical experience certainly helped me with preparing for the board examinations.

*(Member Spotlight, cont'd)*

**Over the years, have you have noticed any shifts or changes in the personal values you hold?**

I think my values have stayed the same. Multicultural work and training certainly contributed to a better awareness of power differentials. My internship had a big part in this. My program focused a lot on social justice, so it was a great learning experience amongst like-minded souls.

For example, when I go into a patient's room or greet a patient or a family member in the waiting room, as a male healthcare provider, a "doctor," a Chinese person, a racial minority, etc., I think about how would I be perceived and what I bring with me to the room:

*What sort of privilege am I given, or do I bring in being who I am?*

*Which cultural elements are more salient in a particular relationship?*

*What about someone who is in a wheelchair in a neurorehabilitation clinic, for example?*

I have to consider how some patients might feel when talking to someone like me, who does not have a visible physical disability. I try to be mindful of the power differentials in such encounters.

I am not always successful, of course!

But I have to think about how I can bridge that gap. If that gap is too broad, treatment adherence would most likely be affected. I might be biased, but I think we should all be about adherence!

**Do you have any words of wisdom for current graduate students?**

I think that trainees (and professionals!) should try to remain mindful of maintaining good relationships with all their colleagues, no matter their discipline.

*Dr. Fung is a neuropsychologist who is currently based in Atlanta, GA, and completed his undergraduate education at the University College of London (U.K.). His website is [www.npneuropsychology.com](http://www.npneuropsychology.com).*



UCL Division of Psychology and Language Sciences, London. Photo credit: UCL

**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS** *Ashita Gurnani, PhD*

*Dear members, in this section, we will be sharing findings from hand-picked, recent publications in Asian Neuropsychology. Our focus is to shed attention on helpful articles to consider when working with individuals with Asian backgrounds. We invite you to send us other exciting articles you peruse in your daily work—especially if they are of high clinical value—to showcase in future editions.*

**1. Age-related cognitive decline and associations with sex, education and apolipoprotein E genotype across ethnocultural groups and geographic regions: a collaborative cohort study**

This study investigated how rates of age-related decline in cognitive test performance varied among 14 cohort studies of cognitive aging gathered from 12 countries (Australia, Brazil, France, Greece, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Singapore, Spain, South Korea, United Kingdom, United States).

Not surprisingly, results from analyses found that in all 14 studies, test scores in all cognitive domains declined with age. Additionally, age further accelerated the rates of cognitive decline.

Processing speed showed the sharpest decline with age. While rates of decline differed among the studies, in MMSE scores, decline was faster for Asians, males, and APOE4 carriers as compared with Whites, females, and non-carriers, respectively.

*(Research Corner, cont'd)*

Further, compared to non-carriers, APOE4 carriers performed worse on tasks of memory and processing speed, as well as on the MMSE.

The different rates of cognitive decline might contribute, via different rates of incident dementia, to the global variation in dementia prevalence.

## 2. Evaluation of Practice Effect on Neuropsychological Measures among Persons With and Without HIV Infection in Northern India

The purpose of this study was to investigate practice effects on standard neuropsychological measures amongst HIV-1 clade C infected and uninfected individuals in northern India.

Results showed that individuals with HIV infection showed more improvement over time than those without infection, although these differences were not statistically significant.

Baseline performance for most measures was a significant predictor of later performance even after taking age, gender, education, and latency between assessments into account.

These findings support the interpretation of observed differences as an indication of practice effects.

On measures such as Digit Symbol, the Grooved Pegboard, and Colored Trails 1, control participants improved substantially more than did persons with HIV infection. However, the opposite was true for performance on category fluency and color trails test (part 2).



The findings have particular relevance for use with individuals with HIV-1 clade C infection, as data on the neurocognitive impact of infection with this clade are limited.

## 3. Screening for Cognitive Impairment in Asian Substance-Dependent Patients: MMSE versus MoCA

This was a Singaporean-based study that aimed to examine the clinical utility of the MMSE versus MoCA in 104 drug or alcohol-dependent inpatients, eight days after inpatient detoxification.

Analyses indicated that cognitive impairment was identified in 76% of patients using the MoCA, which is much closer to the impairment rates reported in the substance abuse literature, as opposed to only 5.8% of the sample using the MMSE. Kappa agreement between the two tests was exceptionally poor ( $\kappa = 0.05$ ), with more task errors noted on the MoCA (versus the MMSE).

Confirming earlier literature, patients with cognitive impairment showed the lowest

performance on the following cognitive domains: language, visuospatial, working memory, and executive functioning.

The authors also looked at patient acceptability of the MOCA; 15.4% found it to be “not at all” demanding, and 71.2% found it to be “not at all” unpleasant.

They surmised that although the MoCA takes a few additional minutes to administer than the MMSE, it was more sensitive to detection of cognitive impairment. They suggested that coupled with a general patient acceptability, the MoCA may serve as the preferred tool for mental status testing.



The mineral springs of Badab e-Surt in Mazandaran, Iran. Photo credit: *National Geographic*

(Research Corner, cont'd)

#### 4. Shiraz Verbal Learning Test (SVLT): Normative Data for Neurologically Intact Speakers of Persian

Given the impact of demographic and cultural variables on performance on commonly used memory measures such as list learning tests, the present study examined the norming process performed on the California Verbal Learning Test and aimed to devise a new test, the Shiraz Verbal Learning Test (SVLT), to better meet the needs of Persian speaking individuals.

The sample consisted of 1275 participants (676 and 599 women and men, respectively) aged between 20 and 89 years old in Shiraz, Iran, who spoke Persian fluently and has received at least 6 years of formal education.

The format and words from the CVLT-II were used for translation purposes with the help of a certified linguist. The SVLT has the same structure and format of the CVLT, with the exception of the List B of the SVLT making use of words falling under the categories of vegetables, animals, clothing, and parts of buildings.

Pearson's correlation analysis indicated that there was a significant negative correlation between age and SVLT performance and a

positive one between education and SVLT performance among the whole sample. Between-group analyses showed that the female participants performed significantly better than their male counterparts on nearly all subtests (Total Trails 1-5, Short-Delay Free Recall, Short-Delay Cued Recall, Long-Delay Free Recall, Long-Delay Cued Recall, and Total Learning Slope), with the only exception being Long-Delay Yes/No Recognition.

The results highlight the SVLT as a potential for further development to be used in different cultural and linguistic groups.

#### References

1. Lipnicki, D. M., Crawford, J. D., Dutta, R., Thalamuthu, A., Kochan, N. A., Andrews, G., ... Cohort Studies of Memory in an International Consortium (COSMIC). (2017) Age-related cognitive decline and associations with sex, education and apolipoprotein E genotype across ethnocultural groups and geographic regions: a collaborative cohort study. *PLOS Medicine* 14(3):e1002261, doi: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1002261
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3. Manning, V., Gomez, B., Guo, S., Wong, K. E., Assam, P. N., & Chan, E. S. (2016). Screening for Cognitive Impairment in Asian Substance-Dependent Patients: MMSE versus MoCA. *Int Arch Addict Res Med*, 2:019. doi: 10.23937/2474-3631/1510019
4. Rahmani, F., Haghshenas, S., Mehrabanour, A., Mani, A., & Mahmoodi, M. (2017). Shiraz Verbal Learning Test (SVLT): Normative Data for Neurologically Intact Speakers of Persian. *Arch Clin Neuropsychol*, 32(5):598-609. doi: 10.1093/arclin/acx030.

# STUDENT COLUMN

*Alexander Tan, PhD*

*Sara Chan, MA*

*Dear members, in this issue, we would like to introduce this section to highlight the vital missions, projects, and efforts that are in progress within the ANA Student Committee.*

*As our field continually grows, so does the diverse representation in the next generation of neuropsychologists.*

*In the spirit of learning through dynamic engagement, we invite you to read more about our student committee.*

*Sara Chan*

neuropsychology trainees of Asian descent or trainees working with individuals of Asian descent

- B. Promote the professional development, cultural competency, and international collaboration of ANA trainees
- C. Enhance ANA's mission to ensure the accessibility and provision of excellent, culturally sensitive neuropsychological services for individuals of Asian descent with trainee-led initiatives.

You may have also seen our monthly Listserv Research Digest showcasing the latest in research relevant to ANA's mission.

Our Trainee Membership Database has been established, a trainee directory that we are adapting to help connect our trainees for a variety of purposes, including bridging students with interns and fellows to discuss their experiences at training sites of interest.

The committee has also developed a new trainee

webinar series, starting with our recent webinar "Demystifying Statistics for Neuropsychologists," presented by Dr. Nicholas Thaler.

You can also see updates and content relevant to our students on social media such as Twitter (@AsianNeuropsych), and connect with us at our student social events.

Keep an eye out for upcoming initiatives as well, including a presence on ANA's new website (<https://www.the-ana.org/>) and student-led contributions to the ANA newsletter!

## MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT CHAIR

Alexander Tan, PhD

### *Mission*

The purpose of the ANA Student Committee is to create a central group led by trainees under the auspice of the larger ANA organization to increase trainee membership, participation, and collaboration; to keep ANA informed of trainee needs within ANA and the field of neuropsychology, and to create an interactive environment that enriches the relationship between trainees and current professionals.

With this aim, the mission of the Student Committee is to:

A. Foster a community for



The ANA Student Committee is chaired by Alexander Tan, and has been working hard in its inaugural year!

We have established many new initiatives, including our monthly Community Corner bringing you ANA committee updates, member accomplishments, and trainee discussions.

# NAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE: FIELD REPORT

*Lauren Mai, PsyD*



*Dr. Lauren Mai recently attended the annual National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN) conference in San Diego, California, and provided us with the following field report:*

I am a regular annual NAN attendee, but this year I had two things to look forward to in addition to the NAN conference.

Firstly, since NAN was in San Diego, that meant I would be relatively close to my hometown (Huntington Beach, CA) and all the fantastic Vietnamese food-- dare I say the best Vietnamese food outside of Viet Nam!

Secondly, ANA would be presenting several cases at the special interest meeting group.

Personally, despite the early 8 am meeting time, I felt that we still had a good number of people who turned up and even several new members!

Dr. Thaler gave a wonderful presentation with a rich summary of Japanese history and culture, mental health utilization, cultural insights, and the field of neuropsychology in Japan. I appreciated hearing his thought process in conceptualizing the cases that were presented.

Dr. Hundal gave us quite the challenge with the two cases he presented involving memory loss. He gave an informative summary of the diversity

consideration we need to have in evaluating patients who may be coming from different waves of immigration from India. I left the meeting feeling inspired. There is so much more to learn and so, so much more work to do!

There was also a good turnout at the social in the evening. I felt like time really flew by! We ate, we drank, we talked, we laughed! Almost everyone stayed until the end, which gave us an opportunity for a lovely group photo. I am already looking forward to our next meeting.



# COMMITTEE UPDATES & EVENTS

## BOARD MEMBERS

### President

Daryl Fujii, PhD, ABPP-CN

### President-Elect

Nicholas Thaler, PhD, ABPP-CN

### Secretary

Lauren Mai, PsyD

### Treasurer

Mimi Wong, PhD

### Member-at-large

Jasdeep Hundal, PsyD, ABPP-CN

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Resource

Daryl Fujii, PhD, ABPP-CN  
Jasdeep Hundal, PsyD, ABPP-CN

### Website

Jennifer Lai, PhD

### Newsletter

Vidya Kamath, PhD, ABPP-CN  
Sara Chan, MA

### Social

Preeti Sunderaraman, PhD

### Facebook

Angeles Cheung, PhD, ABPP-CN

### Twitter

Christopher Nguyen, PhD

### Mentorship

Jasdeep Hundal, PsyD, ABPP-CN  
Nicholas Thaler, PhD, ABPP-CN

### Student

Alexander Tan, PhD

*Dear members, here are the latest news updates from the various committees working on initiatives to reduce health disparities for individuals of Asian descent.*

## ANA Website

The ANA website is now live! Access this at [www.the-ana.org](http://www.the-ana.org). Content still being created includes a member directory, listserv access, updates and announcements, newsletter archive, and other resources.

## APA Grant Funding

We are very excited to announce that ANA just recently received a grant award of \$7,000 from the APA Commission on Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention, and Training in Psychology II (CEMRRAT2) Task Force.

This grant proposal was submitted by no other than Dr. Daryl Fujii, PhD, ABPP-CN. The funds will be used to fund ANA's non-profit status, website development and maintenance, and will help fund awards for student conference presentations.

## Upcoming meetings at INS

If you plan on attending the forthcoming International Neuropsychological Society (INS) annual conference in bright and sunny Denver, Colorado, we hope that you consider attending the following ANA events:

## ANA General Meeting

ANA will be hosting a general meeting at the INS conference in Denver, Colorado. We hope to see everyone there. Details for this are as follows:

Date: **Friday, Feb. 7, 2020**

Time: **4:00 - 5:00 PM**

Location: **Quartz A, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Hyatt Regency**

## ANA Joint Symposium with HNS

Dr. Fujii will be chairing a symposium held in collaboration with ANA's sister organization, the Hispanic Neuropsychological Society (HNS). We hope to see you there if you will be attending INS. The details for this are:

Date: **Saturday, Feb. 8 2020**

Time: **9:00 - 10:30 AM**

Title: **Using the ECLECTIC Framework for Guiding the Neuropsychological Evaluation Process: Case Studies with Latinx and Asian Clients**

Chair: **Daryl Fujii**

Presenters: **Adriana Strutt, Christine Salinas, Nicholas Thaler, Chris Nguyen**

Location: **Centennial GH, Hyatt Regency**

# MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Sara Chan, MA*

Dear members,

*In every ANA Newsletter, we want to dedicate a few minutes to share some of the latest news and updates available about your colleagues, including their many varied activities.*

*We hope you join us in celebrating the achievements of our collective community.*

**Krissa Agbayani, PhD, ABPP-CN**, just recently received board certification through the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology. Congratulations!

**Jennifer Chang, PhD**, was accepted and participated in the APA Minority Fellowship Program's Psychology Summer Institute (PSI) in July 2019.

**Daryl Fujii, PhD, ABPP-CN**, recently accepted an invitation to be an Associate Editor for the Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology.

Congratulations, Daryl!

**Ernest Fung, PsyD, ABPP-CN**, contributed to a chapter in a book. The reference provided for those curious is:

Fung, E. Y. S. & Herring, M. O. (2019). Posterior cortical atrophy in K. M. Sanders (Ed.), *Physician's field guide to neuropsychology: Collaboration through case example*. New York, NY: Springer.

**Feifei Gao, MS**, wrote a publication in the Autism Research journal. The reference provided for those (especially pediatric-neuropsychology) interested is:

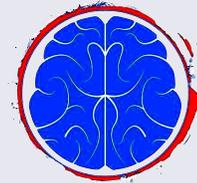
Gao, Y., Linke, A., Jao Keehn, R. J., Punyamurthula, S., Jahedi, A., Gates, K., Fishman, I., Müller, R.-A. (2019). The language network in autism: Atypical functional connectivity with default mode and visual regions. *Autism Research*, 12, 1344 -1355.

**Ashita Gurnani, PhD**, was one of the recipients of the outstanding postdoctoral fellow travel award from NAN also gave a talk at NAN this past November in San Diego.

**Danny Tam, PhD, ABPP-CN**, just recently completed and received board certification through the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology. Congratulations, Danny!

**Alexander Tan, PhD**, was selected as the Founding Postdoctoral Fellow Leader of the new SCN ANST Pediatric Focus Group and was one of the recipients of the outstanding postdoctoral fellow travel award from NAN.

**Rachel Wu** was matched to the Missouri Health Sciences Psychology Consortium internship. Congratulations, Rachel!



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