The Paul Satz-INS Career Mentoring Award

Gina Geffen

After earning her Ph.D. from Monash University in 1972, Gina Geffen joined the Psychology faculty at Flinders University of South Australia, where she directed the Neuropsychology Research Unit in the Julia Farr Centre. In 1991 she became a Professor of Psychology at Queensland University, and directed the Cognitive Psychophysiology Laboratory there until she became an Emeritus Professor in 2007.

Professor Geffen is a Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society, the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia, and the Australian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment (ASSBI). She is a Past President of ASSBI, and has chaired the Australian College of Clinical Neuropsychologists, the Psychologist Registration Board of Queensland, and the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council. Her numerous prestigious awards include the Australian Psychological Society’s President’s Award for Distinguished Service to Psychology, and in 2007 becoming a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

Dr. Geffen has had continuous extramural grant support for her research program for more than 33 years. Her research has addressed many important topics in neuropsychology, including attention and working memory, TBI, cerebral lateralization and behavioral genetics. She is on multiple editorial boards and her publication list includes 140 peer reviewed research articles, 15 book chapters, 10 articles in professional and popular journals, and 7 test manuals. Notably, these publications have been with 139 different co-authors, many of whom have been her students and other mentees. Overall, she has supervised 18 doctorates and 44 Masters and Honors theses. Multiple of her former students and junior colleagues wrote in support of her receiving the Paul Satz-INS Career Mentoring Award sponsored by Psychological Assessment Resources, Inc. Just a few of their comments will be quoted here to illustrate the kind of mentor she is and the influence she has had on many students and junior colleagues over the last 45 years:

“Professor Geffen has made substantial contributions to both the science and practice of neuropsychology worldwide and to the education, training and governance of the profession in Australia…I recall well the extraordinary generosity in her guidance, offering advice and direction of the highest quality in the development of my career. This guidance was well beyond the norm in mentoring and it provided the most nurturing and positively challenging environment for intellectual and professional development. I also recall well how many of my peers benefited at the time from this gift in the development of their own careers. Professor Geffen’s reputation as an extraordinary leader and mentor remains strong not only in my own memory but also in the verbal testimonies of colleagues I meet year after year at professional meetings.” Professor C. Richard Clark, Flinders University

“Personally, I have benefited much from Professor Geffen’s mentoring. Although I was not her student and we used to work in different institutions in Brisbane, she has always been generous with her time for me and for those who seek her advice and guidance. I strongly believe that the development and progression in my career has been influenced and benefited from her valuable mentoring.” Professor David Shum, Griffith University

“Professor Geffen is a person whose mentoring and teaching activities have made a profound impact on the careers of students in the field of neuropsychology both within Australia as well as on the wider international stage…I have the highest regard for Professor Geffen as a mentor, supervisor, researcher, academic, administrator and a person. I feel that she would make an ideal recipient of the award and do justice to sustaining Professor Satz’s legacy.” Professor Simon Crowe, La Trobe University