INS Distinguished Career Award Winners Montreal

Maureen Dennis
Maureen Dennis, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Surgery, University of Toronto and a Senior Scientist in the Brain and Behaviour Program at The Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute in Toronto, where she has worked since receiving her doctoral degree from York University in 1971. Irish and Swedish in origin, Australian by birth, Canadian by citizenship, and international in collaboration, Dr. Dennis’ life has broad geographical boundaries that parallel the breadth of her scientific career. After beginning as an animal neuroscientist, Dr. Dennis moved to human models and distinguished herself early in her career with a series of studies exploring neural plasticity in children with unilateral hemispherectomy. These studies challenged long-standing accounts of recovery from brain injury in children suggesting that the immature brain was less vulnerable to injury and that either hemisphere was capable equally capable of subserving language. Consistent with her broad interdisciplinary perspective, Dr. Dennis has worked on plasticity and related issues throughout her career, completing experimental and psychometric studies of children with traumatic brain injury, spina bifida, brain tumors, and other disorders with plasticity and cerebral reserve as a central or background theme. She has contributed to the history of neuropsychology in various essays, most notably her review of the research program of Margaret Kennard, where she showed that the Kennard principle was not consistent with Kennard’s own thinking and research about recovery from brain injury. She has also produced theoretical accounts of plasticity and cerebral reserve and cognitive development in different developmental disorders that uniquely contribute to scientific understanding of plasticity, cognition, and brain function in children. Finally, Dr. Dennis is an expert linguist and more recently has advanced social cognition as an area of inquiry. Dr. Dennis has authored over 150 articles in peer reviewed journals in neuropsychology and neuroscience and over 30 chapters in textbooks. She has been awarded 32 peer reviewed grants from agencies in Canada and the US. She has trained some notable students as post-doctoral fellows and as graduate students. Awards include the 1985 Benton Mid-Career Award in 1985 and the Birch Lectureship in 2009, both from the INS. Considered by many the leading child neuropsychologist in North America, any serious student of neuropsychology recognizes Dr. Dennis as a major contributor to theory and empirical research on children with neurodevelopmental disorders and brain injury. She leads and collaborates with other research groups investigating different aspects of child neuropsychology, invigorating the groups not only with her knowledge of neuropsychology past and present, but also with the latest updates on outstanding historical mystery novels, her two wonderful daughters, and an all-encompassing appreciation of music and opera. When you send her a paper, she edits and returns it really quickly. None could ask for more from a colleague.

Leslie Gonzalez-Rothi
Leslie Gonzalez-Rothi is among a distinguished group of individuals who have played a pivotal role in developing and fostering neuropsychology as a true interdisciplinary science. As the founder and originating director of the Brain Rehabilitation Research Center of Excellence in Gainesville, FL, she set into place a rich platform for research in neuroplasticity and the rehabilitation sciences spanning multiple disciplines and research approaches – from TMS, fMRI and clinical trials. To report her findings, she has edited two books, written 56 books chapter, authored more than 155 peer reviewed articles, given more than 250 referred presentations, and invited talks throughout the world. Her research in cognitive science/rehabilitation has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, including Program Project grants, R01’s, and T32 training grants, as well by the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Service. For this work she has received numerous awards and accolades include the Paul B Magnuson Award, the highest recognition given by the UF Department of Veterans Affairs for “outstanding rehabilitation research dedicated to seeking new knowledge to benefit the nation’s veterans”, the Clinical Career Award by the Florida Speech-Language-Hearing Association in recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of speech-language pathology, the “Outstanding Leader Award” of ANCDS, and recipient of a UF Research Professorship award in recognition of outstanding research and scholarly achievements. She is
an Honorary Professor at the University of Athens, as well as the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. Dr. Gonzalez-Rothi is a creative thinker and naturally gifted leader with vision and passion. Over the past 30 years, she has served in leadership roles across multiple organizations (Academy of Aphasia, Academy of Neurologic Communication Disorders and Sciences, American Speech Language Association) and as consultant across many levels of government. To date, she is the first and only speech pathologist to serve as the elected President of the International Neuropsychological Society. She held this office in 2002, and spent over 8 years on the INS governing board. Currently, Dr. Gonzalez-Rothi is a Research Career Scientist at the Gainesville VAMC and the Bob Paul Family Professor and Associate Chair for Academic Affairs of the Department of Neurology, University of Florida. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Florida in 1978 and was named the 2011 Outstanding Alumna of the Year by the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions. She is board certified in neurologic communication disorders and is a Fellow of both the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the American Psychological Association.

Kerry Hamsher
Convenimus ut homo liberalis et litterato summo cum ordine! (We come to pay tribute to a gentleman and scholar of the highest caliber!) Dr. Kerry Hamsher obtained his doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Iowa, and went on to complete a postdoctoral residency in clinical neuropsychology in the Department of Neurology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, under the supervision of his mentor, Dr. Arthur Benton. He then worked as a Research Scientist in the Department of Neurology at Iowa where he was a major contributor to what came to be known as the Benton-Iowa Approach to neuropsychological assessment. He probably is best known for his work in developing tests and strategies of measurement, including Multilingual Aphasia Examination, Judgment of Line Orientation, and the Facial Recognition Test in addition to many other assessment techniques described in his book, Contributions to Neuro-psychological Assessment, which have proven valuable to neuropsychologists around the world. While Dr. Hamsher is perhaps best known for his clinical and scientific contributions to tests and measurement, he also has made significant contributions to the neuropsychology in other ways. He left Iowa in 1979 to take a position as an Associate Professor of Neurology of the University of Wisconsin Medical School at the Milwaukee Campus where he developed a postdoctoral training program. His graduates are now scattered around the United States and beyond. Dr. Hamsher also has made substantial contributions to the profession of clinical neuropsychology in the United States, which have continued until his retirement two years ago. He managed the oral and written examinations for the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology for over 15 years, and perhaps more so than any other single individual he is responsible for how the modern day board examination works. He served on the Executive Committee of APA’s Division 40. He was a member of the Board of Governors of the International Neuropsychology Society. He represented the specialty of clinical neuropsychology on the Inter-Organizational Council for the Accreditation of Postdoctoral Programs in Psychology (IOC). He served as a member and the Chairperson of APA’s Council of Specialties (CoS). Similar to the board examination process, through his work on the Inter-organizational Council and the Council of Specialties, Dr. Hamsher has arguably had more influence than any other single individual on how postdoctoral programs of all psychological specialties in the US are accredited. We in Neuropsychology are deeply indebted to Dr. Hamsher for his contributions to tests and measurement of human cognition, and especially in the US for his tireless efforts to develop and safeguard the standards of our profession both within our own community and in the broader medical establishment. We are indeed extremely fortunate to have had him in our ranks.

Andrew Kertesz
Kuhn in his book The Structure of Scientific Revolutions (1962) defines a “paradigmatic shift” as a major alteration in scientific thinking, a revolution. Dr. Andrew Kertesz is one of a small group of Behavioral Neurologists and Neuropsychologists who in the past 5 decades has revolutionized clinical neuropsychology, by enhancing the understanding of the pathophysiology of cognitive disorders such as aphasia, and developing brief standardized and validated tests, such as the Western Aphasia Battery. In addition to being an author of more than 200 peer reviewed original research articles he was editor and
author of several books that are now considered classics. In the last 20 years his work changed direction and he studied primary progressive aphasia and frontotemporal dementia and pioneered the idea that they were overlapping clinically and biologically and included corticobasal degeneration and progressive supranuclear palsy in this “Pick complex”. Recent discoveries have made this field further fragmented, but his idea remains the one to challenge. His book “The Banana Lady” is an educational and entertaining guide to the disease and the Frontal Behavioral Inventory is a widely used clinical and research tool. As a Professor of Neurology in the Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences at the University of Western Ontario and Chief of the Department of Neurology at St. Joseph’s Hospital he was also responsible for attracting many brilliant neurologists, psychologists and speech pathologists into neuropsychology and helped to train several of the world’s leading clinicians and investigators. Most importantly, in addition to his academic pursuits he is a wonderful physician. He is also a terrific skier and except for taking me on black diamond slopes he is a wonderful friend.

Marit Korkman
Marit Korkman completed her master’s degree in psychology at the University of Helsinki in 1974. From thereon, for 20 years she worked as a child neuropsychologist at Helsinki University Central Hospital. In the beginning of her clinical career neuropsychology was not yet widely practiced. Diagnostic assessment instruments for children as well as theories and research findings were practically lacking. Marit therefore began her work on developing a test battery that later became known internationally as Nepsy - a tool for comprehensive assessment of neurocognitive disorders in children. In close collaboration with Ursula Kirk and Sally Kemp, Nepsy grew into a full neuropsychological assessment battery published in several languages. Marit Korkman began her scientific career at the National Institute for Medical Research in Paris, the INSERM in 1982. In 1988 she obtained a doctoral degree at the University of Helsinki - her thesis already describing the first version of Nepsy. Her research activities continued intertwined with her clinical activities and over the years she has lead research projects concerning neuropsychological test profiles in typically developing children as well as in special groups of children with developmental or learning disorders. Marit Korkman’s publications list include 54 original peer reviewed research articles in scientific journals, 29 books and test manuals, and 26 book chapters and other articles. A true cosmopolitan, she has written in Finnish, Swedish, French and English languages. She has given more than 20 invited lectures and 21 workshops in Scandinavia, mainland Europe, UK and USA. She has held academic positions at the Free University of Brussels, Belgium; at the University of Maastricht, the Netherlands; and at Åbo Akademi as well as at the University of Helsinki, Finland. From 2007 up to her retirement in 2011, as the professor of Clinical Neuropsychology at the University of Helsinki she has been in charge of the national four-year, post-graduate specialization program in clinical neuropsychology. She has been a wonderful role model to all her students, leading by example, and showing how dedication to your work combined with a sharp scientific mind can make a difference worldwide. Among her many positions of trust within the scientific community over the years are her memberships in the INS Board of Governors, in the Editorial Board of the Journal of the INS, and in the INS Award Committee.

Morris Moscovitch
Dr. Morris Moscovitch is an exemplary recipient of the 2012 INS Distinguished Scientist Award. Morris Moscovitch is Professor of Psychology and the Glassman Chair in Neuropsychology and Aging at the University of Toronto and the Rotman Research Institute at Baycrest. His educational pedigree is notable: B.Sc. at McGill in 1966 with Peter Milner; MA and PhD University of Pennsylvania in 1972 with Paul Rozin; Post-doctoral fellowship at the Montreal Neurological Institute with Brenda Milner (1973-74). He has elected FELLOWS of many societies: Divisions 3 and 6 of APA; AAAS; The Royal Society of Canada; Society for Experimental Psychology. AWARDS: (2008) Hebb Award from CSCBBCS (Canada); and APS William James Award; (2012) Cognitive Neuroscience Society Distinguished Career Award. He was Co-Editor-in Chief and Section Editor of Neuropsychologia and serves on the editorial board of other journals. He has published or in press 2007 peer-reviewed articles in the best journals; six edited books; and 49 book chapters. He has had enormous impact in each of his brain-behaviour research interests: memory, face-recognition, attention, and
hemispheric specialization in young and old adults and in people with focal lesions and degenerative disorders. His research can be characterized as theoretically based, curiosity driven, clinically relevant and experimentally creative – who can ask for more!

**Marlene Oscar-Berman**

Marlene attended the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Connecticut for her undergraduate and graduate education, respectively. After completing a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard University in 1972, she took a position as Research Associate at what was then known as the Boston VA Hospital and a faculty member in Neurology at Boston University School of Medicine, where she has spent the past four decades conducting exquisite research on the neuropsychological sequelae of human brain damage. To date, she has published over 150 peer-reviewed manuscripts, invited reviews, and book chapters. She has managed to make major contributions in multiple, distinct areas, but is probably best known for her insightful work on perceptual, emotional, and cognitive abilities in chronic alcoholics with and without Korsakoff’s syndrome. In addition, Marlene has conducted important research in a wide range of areas including right hemisphere and frontal lobe functions and gender-related neuropsychological differences as well as neuropsychological functioning in various neuropsychiatric disorders, including, Alzheimer’s disease, Huntington’s disease, Parkinsonism, head injury, aphasia, ADHD, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Schizophrenia. Marlene’s extraordinary contributions to science have been recognized with numerous awards and honors, ranging from a Fulbright scholarship, to awards for excellence in research from the Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society and the Research Society on Alcoholism, and now the Distinguished Career award from the INS, just to name a few. I have known Marlene since the very early 1970s when I met her at a summer barbeque. She was at the center of the Boston VA zeitgeist which included scholars Norman Geschwind, Harold Goodglass, Edith Kaplan, my father (Nelson Butters), Laird Cermak, and many others, including the INS President-elect, Sandy Weintraub. It was an extremely exciting time for neuropsychology and Marlene clearly held her own in that very competitive environment. As a result, she has served as a role model for many women who quietly watched her deftly manage both an active home life as a single mom, raising her son Jesse, and a fast-track academic career. As Margaret O’Connor recently reminded me, Edith Kaplan lauded Marlene’s accomplishments as only she could: she amply praised Marlene’s success in the context of the “high testosterone VA”. Somehow Marlene managed all of this, as a truly modest and unpretentious scholar, who forms genuine, long-lasting bonds with those lucky enough to be around her. Paul Spiers, a long-time colleague who co-teaches a seminar at BU with Marlene, felt strongly that I comment on two additional facets of Marlene. First, he suggested that I convey that despite how sweet people think she is, Marlene has a dark side; recently, she has begun to enjoy testifying as an expert witness in legal matters and supposedly she is more than happy to correct lawyers who have the audacity to question her conclusions! Second, Paul felt strongly that I comment on Marlene’s addiction to exercise, which causes her to regularly leave their seminar early to head for the gym. This addiction is, of course, why she doesn’t look old enough to have accomplished all that she has. Her stint about 10 years ago as a competitive weight lifter, during which she held the world record in her age group for both bench pressing and deadlifting (220 lbs), didn’t hurt either! So finally, I want to conclude that there are many sides to Marlene, and they all are part of the charming, wonderful, elite neuroscientist we know and love.

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**Ralph Reitan**

Ralph Reitan was introduced to neuropsychology as a recent college graduate in 1944, long before the term was commonly used. His first job, for which he received minimal training, involved working in an Armed Forces Induction Station, attempting to determine through interviews and tests whether illiterate inductees had the basic abilities to learn to read and write and thus accepted into the army. We are not sure how accurate those predictions were, but one of the officers at the station was sufficiently impressed with Ralph that he recommended him for a job evaluating brain injured soldiers at the Mayo Hospital in Galesburgh, Illinois. Ralph was fascinated by the difficulties and the recovery he observed in these patients, and struck by the lack of available publications in this area. He assembled a battery of measures that he hoped would capture the difficulties he was observing, and was able to enlist the help of his
section chief, a neurologist by the name of John Aita. Together they published 4 articles in 1947-48 on psychological consequences of brain injury. It was Aita who encouraged Ralph to seek out Ward Halstead, a psychologist at the University of Chicago Medical School—Aita had chanced to hear a lecture by Halstead and thought he had unusual knowledge and insights concerning the effects of brain injury. Ralph did go to the University of Chicago, where he was fortunate to meet not only Ward Halstead, but also the eminent mathematical psychologist, Louis Thurstone. Both of these key figures were impressed with the young man, and encouraged and supported Ralph in entering graduate school in psychology. Through a combination of mishaps and serendipity, Ralph ended up taking an unusual course of study, split between the medical school and his “home” department of psychology, while he worked as an assistant in Halstead’s laboratory. In that lab he learned to test patients using the instruments Halstead had developed, expanding his knowledge of impairments in patients with brain lesions by observing their performances, deficiencies and frustrations as they took the tests. While he was still a graduate student Ralph puzzled about how to use findings of group studies in individual cases, to draw valid conclusions about brain-behavior relationships. For this, he received important advice from Halstead that he kept throughout his research career: That was to be blinded regarding his criterion measures (medical/surgical/autopsy data regarding the condition of the brain) when initially interpreting his neuropsychological test results. He followed this approach with thousands of cases. His observations of individual cases led him to generate hypotheses that could be then be tested by formal research with groups of patients which in turn provided information regarding the generalizability of his findings. This process led also to his dropping and adding measures to the batteries that he developed, to make inferences not only about presence/absence, but also about the location, extent and nature of the neurological condition of the brains of his subjects. He refined and standardized what most neuropsychologists now take for granted as they write their reports: the approach to inference in individual cases that takes into account such information as levels of performance, patterns of test results, right-left comparisons, and pathognomonic signs. Ralph’s approach has been characterized by some as atheoretical and descriptive. However, in truth most progress in medicine has resulted not from a top down theory driven approach [much as this sounds good in grant proposals], but in painstaking observations of phenomena, in finding relationships among observations, in building improved tools to make such observations, and ultimately in knitting these together into broader principles that can be subjected to further test. But without those validated and trustworthy instruments, no progress is possible. As a result, neuropsychological testing that has been built on his foundations can be performed reliably across many parts of the world, and data can be compared. And this has spurred enormous research internationally on causes and correlates of neurocognitive disorders. There may not be any one father of neuropsychology, but certainly Ralph Reitan is among the founding fathers of the discipline as we know it. His distinguished academic career has spanned 6 decades, and includes professorships at the University of Indiana and University of Washington Schools of Medicine and the University of Arizona Department of Psychology. He has over 320 scientific publications, with an unusually high percentage of first authored works. Perhaps Ralph’s greatest contribution to the INS, specifically, has been his enormous impact on the professional development and careers of a large number of INS presidents, governing board members and other distinguished members, including Halgrim Klove, Charles Matthews, James Reed, Manfred Meier, Oscar Parsons, Byron Rourke, Paul Satz, Gerry Goldstein, Igor Grant, Sureyya Dikmen, Ken Adams, and Bob Heaton. I would like to read the following quote that in many ways epitomizes Ralph: “Our general purpose in developing a…neuropsychological test battery was to reflect reliably, validly, and completely the behavioral correlates of brain function. Obviously, this aim extends beyond our current achievements… [but]…we have been able to make a reasonable start toward developing a fairly adequate neuropsychological test battery taking into consideration (1) major theoretical factors that involve nervous system functioning, (2) the range and type of measurements that must be included, and (3) the measurement strategies that are required…” (from Reitan, 1986) From this you can see the broad vision, the commitment to linking neuroscientific understanding to measurements and measurement approaches; yet at the same time reflecting a humility that while much has been achieved, much remains to be done, and improved based upon new observations.