



# The International Neuropsychological Society

## An Interview with Marc Norman, PhD

**Cady Block, PhD, Newsletter Editor**

The Ohio State University; Columbus, OH, USA

The INS is very proud to announce our incoming Executive Director: Marc Norman, PhD. Dr. Norman is a board-certified clinical neuropsychologist and Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego Health in San Diego, CA, USA. Dr. Norman is already well-acquainted with leadership in the INS, having served as Member-at-Large for the past three years. INS Newsletter Editor Cady Block, PhD, sat down with Dr. Norman to learn more about him and his vision for the INS.

**Dr. Block (CB): Can you tell INS members a little bit more about yourself and your background in neuropsychology?**

**Dr. Norman (MN):** Sure, I completed my PhD in clinical psychology at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. My primary mentor at that time was Erin Bigler, PhD, who is actually a former INS President himself. Around 1990, I joined INS. I matched for my predoctoral internship at the consortium between the University of California at San Diego and the San Diego Veterans Affairs Medical Center. In sunny San Diego, my primary mentor was Dean Delis, PhD. I ended up staying in San Diego through my postdoctoral fellowship, and had the delightful opportunity to work with Walden Miller, PhD through a collaborative project with Robert Heaton, PhD. At that time, Dr. Miller had an R01 grant to develop a normative dataset for senior African Americans. After completing my fellowship, I then transitioned into a faculty position in the Department of Psychiatry at UCSD. Today, I am still in San Diego where I enjoy research, clinical work, teaching and supervision, and of course balmy weather.

**CB: How did your membership in INS lead to greater involvement in leadership within the society?**

**MN:** After joining INS as a member early on in my training, I always remained an active member. I regularly attended meetings, where I presented at posters sessions and symposia. This led to my joining the INS Program Committee, where I was able to review submissions for our two annual meetings.

During much of my career, I have participated in neuropsychology governance across organizations such as the Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (APA Division 40), the National Academy of Neuropsychology, and for the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology. These roles helped me to gain greater recognition for my service to the field, and led to my being nominated for the position of INS Member-at-Large three years ago. I have very much enjoyed this position, and feel it has prepared me to take the next step.

**CB: What would you like to accomplish during your term as INS Executive Director?**

MN: Well, my main goal is not to crash the entire thing (laughs). If I can do just that, I consider myself a success. Once my position formally begins in August, my goal will be to foster an atmosphere of shared interest and growth in terms of our science and our collegiality. It's a great time to be in neuropsychology...our specialty is growing in size around the globe. I want to make sure that INS continues to gain momentum in its recognition and engagement with international colleagues. I truly believe that INS is where the world meets, and our societal efforts should reflect that core value.

**CB: I have just one more question. Is there anything you would like to convey to INS membership?**

MN: Yes! This is a very exciting time for the INS as a society. Internally, I want to let our members know that the organization is growing itself in an effort to increase member engagement. One big change is that the INS now has a full-time webmaster, Davis Schoenfeld. Davis can now help us evolve the content and interactivity of our website. We have a remarkable and dedicated team of staff in general, and I'd also like to highlight the hard work of Chantal Marcks at the Director of Office Operations – she is truly the glue of our operation. Further, we've more than doubled the number of our committees, and recently we launched a Special Interest Groups (SIGs) initiative. This means that there are even more opportunities for motivated, enthusiastic members to become more involved in the INS. In particular, I hope to see more individuals take advantage of the SIGs. We currently have three groups in operation, but there is room for many more.

Externally, I want to convey to our members that INS has been hard at work connecting with other organizations around the globe. We have established Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with several international entities such as the Sociedad Latino-Americana de Neuropsicologia (SLAN), Australian Psychological Society's College of Clinical Neuropsychologists, Federation of European Societies in Neuropsychology (FESN), and the Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment (ASSBI), and we look forward to signing another in Rio. These reflect our commitment to fostering mutual relationships with other like-minded scientific societies from around the world.

Finally, in a broader sense I just want to express my appreciation to all of our INS membership and Board of Governors. None of the work of this society happens without each and every one of you. Thank you, and I hope that you continue to support our mission and work and hope to see you at our upcoming meetings in Rio and Denver!