

**"CHOOSING DISHES FOR
DINNER" AS A
NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST:
EMBRACING
UNCONVENTIONAL ROLES**

**ANA
NEWS**

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Asian
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Association

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear ANA Community,

I hope you are all enjoying a wonderful summer. On behalf of our Executive Committee, I'm delighted to share some exciting updates and opportunities with you. These highlights underscore our dedication to advancing neuropsychology and building a vibrant, inclusive community. Your involvement is crucial as we continue to grow and evolve together. Below are key announcements about upcoming initiatives, ways to get involved, and what we've achieved as a community.

International Liaison and the OPT Ad Hoc Committees

In a recent executive committee meeting, we were thrilled to highlight the invaluable and impactful work of the International Liaison Task Force and the Optional Practical Training (OPT) Task Force. Given their distinct missions, both the International Liaison and OPT task forces have expressed their desire to operate as independent committees. During our discussions, we explored various organizational structures, including assigning advisors and considering whether they should function as ad hoc, subcommittees, or independent full committees. Recognizing the importance of their missions and initiatives, we fully support transitioning these task forces into ad hoc committees. Establishing these ad hoc committees provides a flexible and efficient path forward. We enthusiastically



agreed to support this transition, though we will engage in ongoing discussions to determine the structure and logistics. We hope that our support underscores the importance of their work and our commitment to advancing their missions, ensuring that these ad hoc committees will continue to significantly contribute to our organization's adaptability and responsiveness to emerging challenges in neuropsychology.

The Importance of Diverse Representation in Academic Journals

The inclusion of Asian neuropsychologists and ANA members on editorial boards is crucial for advancing scientific understanding

and innovation. We are committed to promoting diverse perspectives in our field, as they are key to effectively addressing and integrating the unique challenges and contributions of Asian neuropsychology. This representation promotes equitable and inclusive research practices and enhances the visibility and recognition of Asian professionals, fostering greater collaboration and professional development. Such diversity enriches the field and propels global neuropsychological research forward by broadening research topics and counteracting biases. We take immense pride in the exceptional representation of the ANA members across prestigious journals, with our distinguished members holding prominent editorial positions:

Michelle Chen, PhD – Editorial Fellow, Neuropsychology

Rachael Ellison, PhD – Consulting Editor, Neuropsychology

Daryl Fujii, PhD – Associate Editor, Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology

Duke Han, PhD – Editorial Board, Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology; Editor-in-Chief, Journals of Gerontology Series B

Christy Hom, PhD – Consulting Editor, Child Neuropsychology; Associate Editor, Journal of Pediatric Neuropsychology

Michelle Madore, PhD – Incoming Editor, Asian American Journal of Psychology

Rowena Ng, PhD – Consulting Editor, Neuropsychology

Christopher Nguyen, PhD – Editorial Board, Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology; Consulting Editor,

Journal of the International Neuropsychology Society

Rebecca Ready, PhD – Consulting Editor, The Clinical Neuropsychologist

Paula K. Shear, PhD – Editorial Board, Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology; Editorial Board, Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology

Jerrold Yeo, PhD – Consulting Editor, The Clinical Neuropsychologist

Our members' presence in these influential roles underscores ANA's significant impact and leadership in neuropsychology. Of note is a current call for applications for Associate Editors for Neuropsychology. Applications from all areas of expertise are welcomed, and self-nominations are encouraged. The application deadline is Friday, September 27th, with terms beginning in January 2025. If you are interested in this opportunity, I'd encourage you to visit [Call for Nominations](#) for more details.

ANA Town Hall

We are excited to announce that we will host our first ANA town hall meeting this fall. This town hall aims to increase engagement and transparency within our ANA community. It will provide an opportunity for open dialogue, sharing ideas, addressing concerns, and giving feedback to our leadership. By discussing our strategic goals and updating everyone on our progress, we aim to ensure that all voices are heard and that our decision-making process remains inclusive. This meeting will strengthen our community, enhance our collective understanding of our direction, and enable us to shape the future of ANA actively. We look forward to

meeting you! Please stay tuned for an announcement of the date and time.

Join Us!

We will soon launch a centralized call for committee membership applications this August. Your active participation is crucial to the continued success and growth of ANA. Contributing to our committees allows you to bring your unique skills and perspectives to the forefront, helping to drive forward important initiatives and shape the future of our organization. By joining a committee, you contribute to our vital work and gain valuable opportunities for professional development and networking within ANA, our sister organizations, and beyond. We encourage all members to consider how they can get involved and make a meaningful impact. Your engagement is key to our collective progress and achieving our shared goals. Please be on the lookout for the request for applications.

In Memoriam

We are deeply saddened to hear about Dr. Stanley Sue's passing on June 6, 2024. Dr. Sue's legacy is monumental and far-reaching, particularly within the Asian neuropsychology community. His pioneering contributions to ethnic minority psychology have shaped the academic landscape and had a profound and lasting impact on numerous Asian neuropsychologists. His work provided a critical foundation for understanding the unique psychological experiences and needs of Asian Americans, and his advocacy for cultural competence in clinical practice has been instrumental in advancing the field of psychology and Asian neuropsychology.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support. Let's make this a summer of growth and engagement for our community. If you would like to discuss any of these updates or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Warm regards,
Christopher Minh Nguyen, PhD, ABPP
President of the Asian Neuropsychological Association

FEATURED NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST: DR. WEN-YU CHENG

BY JESSIE LI, M.A. & IVY CHO, M.A.

Wen-Yu Cheng, PsyD, is a neuropsychologist and Jungian analyst based in Seattle, Washington. He is currently in private practice and serves as a consultant at Cogstate for clinical trials in Asia. Dr. Cheng completed his doctorate in clinical psychology at the Wright Institute in California, a pre-doctoral internship at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, and a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical neuropsychology at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, AZ. He provides education and training on cultural neuropsychology, mindfulness-based interventions, and Jungian psychology. Currently, he leads mindfulness meditation for the Transitions Support Group for individuals with Spinal Cord Injury at Mount Sinai. Additionally, Dr. Cheng is a board member at the C.G. Jung Institute of San Francisco.

In this issue, we explored Dr. Cheng's journey to become a neuropsychologist, delve into his role as a neuropsychology consultant in clinical trials, and discuss his life passions.

What motivated you to be a neuropsychologist?

Becoming a neuropsychologist was not part of my original plan. Before coming to the U.S. in 2011, I practiced as a master's-level psychologist in Taiwan for nearly six years. A scholarship from the C.G. Jung Institute in San Francisco allowed me to pursue further analytic training. It wasn't until I was a graduate student at the Wright Institute in Berkeley, a PsyD program, that I began considering neuropsychology.

The first major influence was my mother's stroke. I felt vulnerable due to the distance



between us, with her being in Taiwan, and my limited knowledge of the brain. The second major influence stemmed from my role as a psychotherapist. Over time, I recognized the importance of understanding neuropsychology, even when providing interventions. I did not pursue this specialty with the intention of becoming one of the greatest neuropsychologists in the world; I simply felt it was important to delve deeper into the field.

I completed my practicum training in the Bay Area and initially selected internship sites primarily in that region because I wanted to stay there. At that time, my mentor and supervisor, Dr. Shelley Peery, said to me, "The origins of neuropsychology are on the East Coast. There are many excellent programs there, which you should consider. Do not decide based on safety or familiarity. If you can fly all the way from Taiwan to the West Coast across the Pacific Ocean, why can't you fly from the West Coast to the East Coast?" Following that conversation, I changed my

FEATURED NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST: DR. WEN-YU CHENG

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rankings within a week and secured an internship at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City. There, I was fortunate to work with many excellent mentors, including Drs. Angeles Cheung, Sabrina Breed, and Angela Riccobono, and became deeply invested in cultural neuropsychology and Chinese neuropsychology.

After my internship, I completed my postdoctoral training at Barrow Neurological Institute, despite challenges such as English being my second language, having an accent, and learning about patients' cultural differences. Following my fellowship, I was hired as a staff neuropsychologist at Barrow in a holistic, milieu-based neurorehabilitation program, the Center for Transitional Neuro-Rehabilitation, led by Dr. Pamela Klonoff, and worked there for almost two years. I enjoy teamwork and learning to integrate neuropsychology, neurorehabilitation, and various psychotherapy approaches into my practice.

My spouse often teases me for being a "professional student." Well, that's our field. You never stop learning.

Could you provide a brief background of your work and how you became involved in clinical trials?

When I left Barrow and moved from Phoenix, AZ, to Seattle, WA, full-time positions were scarce. I interviewed with Cogstate's science team for a Local Expert Advisors (LEADs) position. Cogstate is an Australian-based company that supports clinical trials for pharmaceutical companies. During the interview, the science team and I quickly

realized they needed more than just LEADs to review their Chinese raters' work; they also needed someone who could address cultural adaptation and linguistic issues. Specifically, they were looking for someone to recalibrate or review Chinese manuals and measures in a culturally informed manner. Literal translations can create significant measurement errors that impact data collection. My experiences in neuropsychology, translation, and interpretation were a great fit for their needs. As such, my role involves acting as a consultant to oversee their studies in China and Taiwan, reviewing manuals, including test instructions and measures, for cultural appropriateness.

One example involves asking older adults in Taiwan or China when Winter occurs. Some older adults may not respond based on the Gregorian calendar but rather the Lunar calendar, resulting in different date ranges. As a rater or supervisor, would you provide credit for an answer that doesn't match our current calendar but is accurate according to a different one? Another example is a naming task featuring a white mask as the stimulus. In English, the standard answer would be "mask." In Chinese, different names could apply, making a literal translation inaccurate. There are many nuances and elaborations of a word, but the task aims to measure whether the participant can name the stimuli in a culturally relevant way. These examples illustrate the importance of considering languages and cultures to accurately measure what we intend to measure.

Another part of my job is recalibration. I provide education and recalibrate test instructions or procedures to ensure consistency in measurement.

FEATURED NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST: DR. WEN-YU CHENG

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At Cogstate, I have seen my neuropsychologist colleagues use their expertise to contribute to a broader team, advancing clinical trials.

How might someone get involved if they are interested?

The answer to this question involves both interest and fit. Cultural neuropsychology and multiculturalism are my passions, making my work with Cogstate an ideal match. When I was working full-time at Barrow, I was too exhausted to take on additional jobs. Now that I work entirely remotely, seeing patients for psychotherapy and telepsychology, the flexibility of remote work and the ability to control my own schedule perfectly align with my current situation.

There are many talented bilingual neuropsychologists at ANA who might be interested in similar roles. If so, Cogstate is actively recruiting bilingual LEADs for their new clinical trials. You can visit their booth at the International Neuropsychological Society or other major neuropsychological conferences, check their website, or reach out to me directly for more information.

Graduate programs rarely teach us to market ourselves or explore unconventional roles for our expertise. However, if you are interested, opportunities are always available. In addition to Cogstate, you can explore job openings on LinkedIn and listservs.

Is there a particularly interesting clinical trial you have been a part of, or an interesting anecdote you might want to share with the readers?

Being on the U.S. team, my colleagues may not

fully grasp Asia's various languages and cultural nuances. Recently, I have been working with a team to provide education on these differences. I gave a presentation on the distinctions between Chinese culture and languages. For example, we discussed an item used to evaluate the level of functioning based on participants' ability to use a knife to eat versus only being able to use a fork or spoon or requiring physical assistance from a caregiver or family member. In China and Taiwan, many people do not use chopsticks to eat instead of knives. I explained this cultural nuance to the team, and through collaboration and discussion, we decided the most complex level of functioning should include the use of chopsticks versus just knives. Using a knife may be more relevant for younger generations, while chopsticks are more pertinent for older generations. In this situation, I helped them understand that the motor functions required to use chopsticks are more complex than those needed to use a knife.

Examples like this highlight the importance of cultural adaptation, and I hope people recognizes these differences.

What have been some of your greatest takeaways in your work so far?

My greatest takeaway has been learning to work with a team and remaining humble. When I collaborate with LEADs from other cultures at Cogstate, I respect their judgment and expertise while providing my professional opinion.

Sometimes, neuropsychologists, like other professionals, possess a big "ego," thinking we have better judgment on everything, our own work and research are the most invaluable, or

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we hold serious biases toward other psychologists in different divisions or with different psychotherapy approaches. One dilemma I observed in my previous hospital positions is senior neuropsychologists being promoted to leadership due to their excellent work in neuropsychology. This can become disastrous for the department or the people around them because they are not trained in managing people, yet they think they know how to, especially when they try to manage people by “objective measures or data.” Personally, I believe it is crucial to do your own personal work, be open-minded, and be aware of your strengths, limitations, and biases.

What are some themes or issues that you have noticed in your work that motivate you?

Very often, we forget that we are human as well. It is important to acknowledge our humanity and to bring our authentic selves into our roles. I often reflect on how I can accept myself. I will always have an accent, but I can still convey many important things. As a psychotherapist or analyst, I use my psychotherapy skills in teamwork, getting to know people and their experiences. Integrating different skill sets into my work is a key part of my passion.

Have you observed any changes in the role of cultural diversity in clinical trials?

I have worked with Cogstate for less than a year, so I wouldn't say I have a firm grasp of long-standing changes. However, I have noticed a shift since pharmaceutical companies were completing translations independently before working with Cogstate; they often assumed things were linear or 1:1. Since we

began reviewing materials, manuals, and instructions, we have provided valuable feedback to their science team. There is a growing understanding that conducting clinical trials in non-European or non-U.S. countries is far more complicated. People are becoming more receptive to accepting multiple perspectives, realizing that there isn't just one answer or one viewpoint, even in the field of neuropsychology.

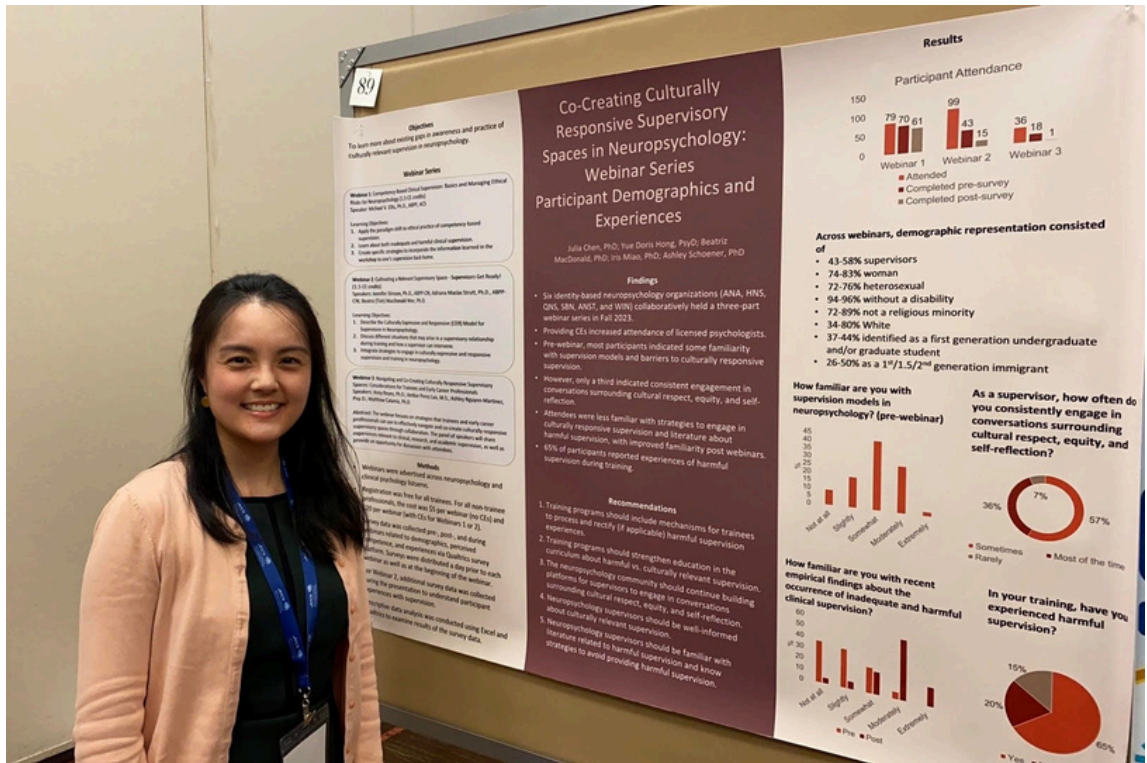
What tips/words of wisdom would you give trainees interested in clinical trials?

I am glad some of you are interested in clinical trials. Be open to unconventional roles as a neuropsychologist. There are so many different things we can do in this field, and we can make significant contributions. Be open and receptive, and remember that our work is closely related to how we want to live our lives. Think about what is important to you.

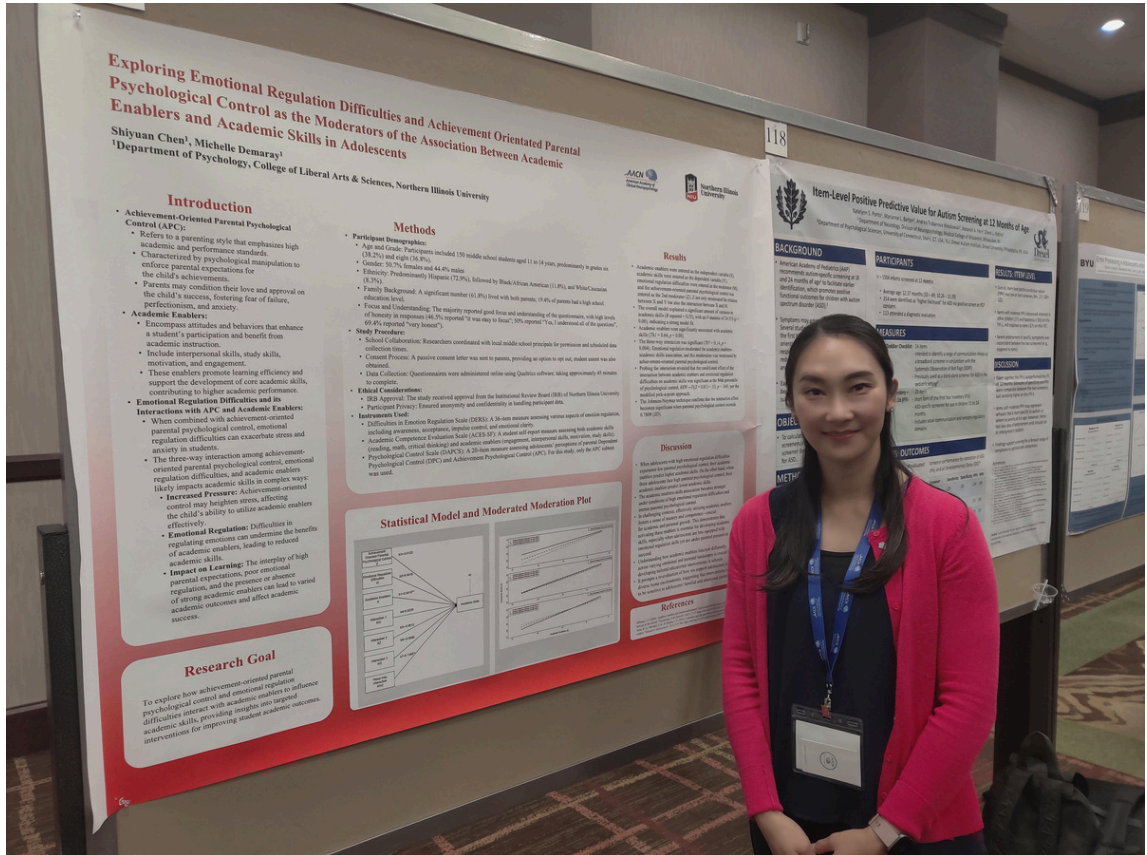
It's like choosing dishes for dinner as a neuropsychologist. You can be like me, involved with clinical trials as a consultant while also being a psychotherapist and analyst. You can make it work, and you have a choice.

What is a fun fact that your colleagues might not know about you?

I am a lifelong Buddhist meditation practitioner. My goal isn't to save the world but to seek psychic enlightenment. When I practice sitting meditation at home, I drape a blanket over my lap, and my dog, Lizzy—a miniature schnauzer—quietly joins me. As soon as I finish, she jumps up and leaves. She seems to enjoy a good nap during meditation, so I'm not quite sure if she's having a mindful awakening or just mindful sleep!



CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. JULIA CHEN AND SHIYUAN CHEN, M.S., ON THEIR POSTER PRESENTATIONS AT AACN 2024 IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA!





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