

SIG Spotlight

By Lena Dobson and Holly Miskey

Special interest groups, or SIGs, provide a unique opportunity for individuals with similar interests to build collaborative relationships, create international communities, and work together to further science. The SIGs conduct meetings at conferences, have list serves, engage in social media, and maintain an active communication throughout the year. To date, three SIGs have formed: Epilepsy, Oncology, and Cultural Neuropsychology. INS is accepting additional applications for new SIGs. There is no deadline for submission, but applications do require 20 interested INS members. Email questions or requests for applications to INSScientificCommittee@gmail.com. We are excited to hear from you!

Drs. Cady Block, William Barr, and Sallie Baxendale are the co-chairs for the Epilepsy SIG. We interviewed Dr. Block to learn more about the SIG:

Q: What was the motivation for starting this SIG?

A: Epilepsy is among the most common, and most functionally disabling, neurological disorders across the lifespan. Neuropsychology plays a valuable role in our understanding and management of epileptic disorders, including clinical assessment and intervention, research, and education in guiding policy. While there are already existing neuropsychology SIGs in epilepsy societies, we felt that INS could play a critical role in helping bridge these groups to amplify information sharing, support, and advocacy efforts for individuals with epilepsy. This SIG not only brings together existing epilepsy neuropsychologists, but also attracts new individuals to our subspecialty area.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish with this group?

A: We hope to hold two annual meetings at the INS North American and Mid-Year conferences, with increased epilepsy representation in symposia and workshops at each of these events. As noted above, there are multiple existing neuropsychology SIGs within epilepsy societies and we aim to establish strong collaborations with each. In keeping with the INS mission and values, we also hope to provide an opportunity for INS members around the world to connect and partner in efforts that accelerate research and treatment of epilepsy.

Q: Tell me a little about the members of your SIG?

A: We have 100 members from the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the United Kingdom. Our members represent the entire spectrum of involvement in epilepsy, ranging from clinical providers to clinical scientists and everything in between. Our members include career professionals as well as all levels of trainees and students. Many members are already established, being renowned in the science and/or practice of epilepsy neuropsychology. Many others are brand new to this subspecialty. As you can see, we are a very welcoming group!

Q: Who can be a member?

A: Anyone with an interest in epilepsy!

Q: How does a member get involved with this SIG?

A: Please contact co-chair Dr. Cady Block at cady.block@osumc.edu. We look forward to having you as part of our group!