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BOOK REVIEWS

Child Neuropsychology and Neurophysiology

Handbook of Clinical Child Neuropsychology (2nd ed.). C. Reynolds and E. Fletcher-Janzen (Eds.). 1997. New York: Plenum Press. 746 pp., $95.00.

Biological and Neuropsychological Mechanisms: Life-Span Developmental Psychology. H. Reese and M. Franzen (Eds.). 1997. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 261 pp., $59.95.

Reviewed by ROBERT W. BUTLER, Ph.D., ABPP, *Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Oregon Health Sciences University, P.O. Box 574, Portland, OR 97207.*

The Handbook of Clinical Child Neuropsychology (2nd ed.), as is obvious from the title, is an updated edition of the editors' first book, originally published in 1989. At that time the subspecialty of child neuropsychology was just beginning to unfold its wings, and little was available in terms of a broad and encompassing handbook resource. This first text was a reasonable attempt at assembling such a resource, but it did suffer from a number of limitations including a failure to cover adequately more process-oriented approaches to child neuropsychology, an underemphasis on neurological development and diseases of childhood, and a failure to sample adequately from some of the more widely respected authorities in the subfield of pediatric neuropsychology. While these weaknesses were relatively excusable for the first edition, this is not true now. Unfortunately, the second edition of the text continues to suffer from some of these same weaknesses.

Like many things in life, the handbook has positive and negative qualities. Yet, the editors engage in a bit of hubris in their preface. I quote: "We waited for a rush of criticism about some of the more extreme views expressed in the first edition: None came. We waited for other volumes to appear: None appeared. Hence, we introduce the second edition of the *Handbook of Clinical Child Neuropsychology*."

This book is clearly a solid effort but I believe that it does not yet meet the need for a relatively definitive resource. In comparison with the first edition, this update does not include a significant degree of new information in a number of the chapters. Overall, there is much variability in the quality of the individual chapters. I found several of the chapters to be stellar in their readability and informative nature. These included the work by Majovsky on the development of higher brain functions in children, Kinsbourne's chapter on cerebral lateralization, Fennell and Bauers' work on models of inference, Brown and co-writers' chapter on stimulant medication, and Elliot's chapter on the neuropsychological sequelae of substance abuse in children. Other chapters were also above average. I believe these include Boliek and Obrzut's work on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, Kolb and Fantie's chapter on child development, and the Llorente et al. section on neuropsychological sequelae associated with pediatric HIV infection.

On the other side of the coin, the neuropsychological diagnosis section was almost uniformly weak. The section on techniques of intervention was also somewhat tepid. For example, a chapter on cognitive rehabilitation does not reference any of the work reported by Sohlberg and Mateer, which is state of the art and clearly applicable to children. There is considerable overlap amongst some of the chapters. There are two separate chapters on the neuropsychology of epilepsy, and it does not appear that the authors coordinated their writing because redundancy occurs. Some chapters seem to be an afterthought or poorly integrated. For example, Cepada's work on nonstimulant psychotrophic medication was informative but one wonders why it was included as a major section on techniques of intervention. Other chapters also appear to be more filler in quality and poorly executed.

Overall, I give this text a reserved "thumbs up." I can recommend it, in part, because of some excellent chapters, and that the book is an attempt to serve the need for a major resource umbrella within our subdiscipline of pediatric and child neuropsychology. The weaknesses in the book, unfortunately, are many and not insignificant in import. Contrary to the editors' claim, a number of texts have appeared over the past few years on child neuropsychology, including an excellent update of the Spreen et al. text, *Human Developmental Neuropsychology*, and also two volumes in the very thorough *Handbook of Neuropsychology* series. There re-

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mains a need for a comprehensive, integrated handbook in this area. I believe the present text does not adequately fit the bill.

I have always been extremely wary of books that summarize the proceedings of a conference. Almost inevitably, these texts include disparate chapters that do not coalesce well into a unified concept. There is a distinct difference between a day or two of presentations by authorities in a field and the publication of a text on a unified theme. A little bit of variety and divergence works well in a conference because it helps keep the attendees' attention. A book is another scenario entirely. One wants greater cohesion in this format because maintaining the attention of the audience is of less immediate concern. Additionally, oral slide presentations do not necessarily translate into written words all that well. In summary, it is a difficult proposition to wed these two modalities into a single product.

The book *Biological and Neuropsychological Mechanisms: Life-Span Developmental Psychology* is an example of how the above problems can be manifested even with a good attempt at execution. The chapters in this book cover a wide range of topics within developmental neuropsychology, including a developmental theory of behavior, mathematical modeling, electrophysiology, lateralization, and adolescent substance abuse. One can see that the editors have a full plate. Unfortunately, the chapters are uneven, as some authors presented major reviews of research literature within a subarea, other authors integrated their literature review within a theoretical framework, and other authors provided data with attempts to build a foundation for understanding the neuromechanisms behind cognitive development. It must be stated that there is some good information in this book. Kinsbourne's chapter on the development of lateralization is succinct, comprehensive, and well presented. The Nelson chapter on electrophysiological correlates of memory development in the first year of life is intriguing and well written. The chapter on the correlates of language development is remarkably comprehensive for such a brief piece of work. In opposition to these semiprecious gems, the text stumbles at times. The price for a book of this type is usually quite high and I, unfortunately, do not feel that I would be able to advocate purchasing this volume. I would, however, have enjoyed attending the conference.

Double Vision

The Two Sides of Perception, by Richard B. Ivry and Lynn C. Robertson. 1998. Cambridge, MA: A Bradford Book/The MIT press. 315 pp., $55.00.

Reviewed by Michael C. Corballis, *Research Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience, Department of Psychology, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand.*

"The asymmetry of the mammalian brain," goes the first sentence in this book, "took hundreds of years to discover." This is not a promising beginning. Hundreds of years from when? And do the authors *really* mean the *mammalian* brain? We are indeed beginning to discover all kinds of asymmetries in the brains of mammals, from mice to chimpanzees, but the only mammal that features in the book is *Homo sapiens*. Cerebral asymmetry in humans is scarcely news, having been discovered by Dax as early as 1836, and a great many volumes have been produced on the subject.

But the book does pick up from that inauspicious start, and goes on to present an elegant theory about hemispheric differences in perceptual processing. In a 1993 review, Hellige concluded that no single principle could capture all of the evidence on visual asymmetries, let alone perceptual ones generally, but the present volume goes some way toward a unified solution. The authors propose that visual information passes through two spatial-frequency filters. The first of these selectively filters the spatial frequencies relevant to a given perceptual task, and is bilaterally symmetrical. The second is asymmetrical, with selective filtering of the higher frequencies by the left hemisphere and of the lower frequencies by the right hemisphere. The double filter allows the authors to explain why there is no asymmetry in contrast sensitivity, which depends on the first filter only, and why asymmetries in higher-level tasks depend on relative rather than absolute spatial frequency.

The authors tentatively extend the model to the auditory domain, with temporal frequency playing the role that spatial frequency plays in the visual domain. They then go on to apply the model to a fairly wide range of phenomena, including perception of faces, speech perception, unilateral neglect, the effects of unilateral brain injury, and even alcoholism, schizophrenia, and dementia! These applications are sometimes strained, but often lead to interesting insights. An attractive feature is a connectionist implementation of the model. The book is clearly written and provides a useful (if selective) review of literature even if one might not always be inclined to go along with the theory.

The theory would be more plausible, in my view, if the authors had given an evolutionary account of when and why the double-filtering system might have evolved. A short section headed "Evolutionary Perspectives" is in fact largely devoted to ontogeny, not phylogeny, relating asymmetries in frequency filtering to an asynchrony in the early growth of the hemispheres, although the authors do make some interesting points about the coupling of spatial and temporal frequency in real-world events that might have influenced brain evolution. Big things tend to make deep sounds, small things squeaky ones: The trumpeting of elephants contains lower fre-

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quencies than does the song of a canary, and the sounds created by the toppling of a large tree are also lower than those created by dropping a pencil. Such correlations might have favored the selection of parallel filtering asymmetries in the spatial and temporal domains, but do not really explain why the filtering should be asymmetrical in the first place.

Given that the human visual system appears to be remarkably similar to that in other primates, one might also ask whether the asymmetries the authors document are present in all primates—or even in all mammals, as the opening sentence might lead one to expect. There is at least some evidence for an asymmetry in the processing of local and global features in monkeys (Horel, 1994), if not in mice. If the model is intended to apply to the human condition, then it is perhaps odd that there is no mention at all of the asymmetry that most obviously sets humans apart, namely, our predominant right-handedness. To be sure, the authors are careful to state that their theory is restricted to perceptual asymmetry, but I find it hard to avoid the conclusion that if there is anything distinctive about human cerebral asymmetry, it has its origins in response systems, not perceptual ones.

Although written in an accessible style, the book would have benefited from another round of proof-reading. The corpus callosum suffers particularly, at one point degenerating into the "corpus collusum." But this is a quibble. The book will appeal mainly to those interested in perceptual laterality, to whom it offers a Popperian challenge. It will also be accessible to senior undergraduates, and indeed to anyone interested in the science of laterality, as distinct from the left brain/right brain cult that still permeates the popular media.

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A Legal Primer for Neuropsychologists?

The Practice of Forensic Neuropsychology: Meeting Challenges in the Courtroom.
R. McCaffery, A. Williams, J. Fisher, and L. Laing (Eds.). New York: Plenum Press.
219 pp., $39.50.

Reviewed by Nils R. Varney, Ph.D., ABPP, *Staff Neuropsychologist, Iowa City VA Medical Center and Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52240.*

The editors of this book state in the Preface that "this volume is not a 'how to guidebook.' " While this is certainly true, the chapters explaining legal issues (e.g., rules of evidence) offer what is essentially an advanced primer on evidentiary law as it relates to psychological testimony in civil and criminal trials. It is in this regard that the work has its greatest value.

The editors also believe that neuropsychologists reading the book will advance their ability "to be of maximum benefit to the trier of fact." *The Practice of Forensic Neuropsychology* offers a very slanted overview of what constitutes good clinical practice for use in court. While the editors deny that the work is a "guidebook," about 33% of the book is very clear in offering strong opinions about what specific tests or test batteries are acceptable for forensic use. In this respect, the book becomes a strident argument for a particular view of how neuropsychological assessment should be performed, both as a forensic and clinical discipline. Doubtless many neuropsychologists will agree with some of the conclusions made, but there is also likely to be something to irritate most neuropsychologists in these chapters.

The best chapters of the book teach psychologists about the law as it relates to psychological testimony in both civil and criminal matters. In these respects the book is (despite the editors' claim) actually a first rate "guidebook" in that it educates neuropsychologists about the law as it relates to their clinical practice. Anyone who has had to deal with *Fry* and *Daubert* "junk science" evidentiary proofs will greatly appreciate chapter 1 (by Giulliano et al.) which reviews these matters in detail. Indeed, understanding of the clinical/legal issues, which are reviewed quite carefully in the chapter, should be helpful to any neuropsychologist anticipating tort testimony. This chapter clearly exemplifies the concept "forewarned is forearmed."

Another excellent chapter, authored by Reihopf and Fisher, concerns "The Neuropsychology in Criminal Proceedings." This chapter reviews evidentiary law and also discusses legal definitions of insanity, diminished capacity, etc. as related to neuropsychology. Many if not most of us will probably never be involved in the defense or prosecution of a patient who is on trial for a capital crime (the primary focus of the chapter). However, it nevertheless makes fascinating reading. Many of the lessons taught should be just as applicable to lesser crimes brain injured patients might be prosecuted for (e.g., shoplifting). In addition reading the chapter offers an interesting lesson about the substantial differences between states regarding "insanity pleas" and their subsidiary types.

Chapter 10 is offered as an example of court testimony, the "Hypothetical Trial Testimony of Dr. C." The trial testimony, with both direct and cross examinations, is presented in deposition transcript form. The authors of the

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chapter, Laing and Fisher, are either very talented at writing courtroom dialogue, have "cut and pasted" sections from other trial and deposition transcripts, or simply modified an existing transcript. The testimony of Dr. C. primarily concerns the faults in the assessment of a plaintiff conducted by two other psychologists. Put simply, Dr. C. never examined the plaintiff and is testifying for the defense solely to discredit the work by plaintiff's psychologists. This chapter is somewhat offensive as the only example of trial testimony offered. Not only did Dr. C. never see the plaintiff, but the evidence of the other psychologists is not presented, thus giving the impression that Dr. C.'s testimony "closed the door" on the case. This example from "real life" might be interesting, but is appropriate only if included in a work with multiple other examples of trial testimony for defense and plaintiff. However, to have the only "real life" example of trial work be an expert witness who never examined the patient and whose focus is on psychometric theory seems a poor decision. It is highly unlikely that this is representative of most neuropsychological testimony (defense or plaintiff related). One can also seriously question whether this is either a wise or an ethical tactic to take in a civil suit.

Chapters 2, 3, and 4 (essentially a third of the book) are each authored by Arthur Williams. The chapters offer a curious mix of psychometric theory, practical trial advice, and explicit recommendation of certain tests as the only valid instruments for forensic use (based on their psychometric properties). The author clearly expresses his strong disapproval, essentially a psychometric denunciation, of flexible batteries and selects as "suitable" a very narrow set of instruments. There is something for most neuropsychologists to disagree with in chapter 3, which contains the recommendations and denunciations. At the same time, the psychometric arguments in chapter 2 are well considered and thorough, if lacking somewhat in flexibility. Indeed, by the criteria set forward, MRI and EEG might also not be acceptable for evidentiary purposes because of inadequate reliability and validation and poorly defined normative samples for individual instruments.

Chapter 5, by Lynch and McCaffery, is concerned with the question of premorbid intellectual functioning. The authors show relatively less prejudice in making their points than in the previous three chapters. The contents do, however, reflect a point of view (i.e., finding psychometric fault with established instruments) with which others might take issue.

Chapters 8 and 9 seem to have been included as afterthoughts. Each is brief and makes points that have been discussed elsewhere in far greater detail (e.g., ecological validity).

Overall, this is a work which has two very strong chapters on neuropsychology and the law surrounded by discussions, arguments, recommendations and case examples reflecting a specific view of psychometric theory as applied to neuropsychological assessment. For nearly a century, psychological and psychiatric testimony in civil and criminal trials has been the subject of debate and controversy within mental health disciplines and of occasional ridicule by outsiders. Neuropsychology is quickly catching up, both as a discipline relied upon in trial and the subject of fierce debate. The *Practice of Forensic Neuropsychology* fits neatly into this ongoing disorder and debate by offering valuable information about neuropsychology and the law while simultaneously becoming somewhat strident and narrow in their view of what everyone else should be doing. Is the book worth the price. Most probably. It is worth reading from cover to cover. *Caveat emptor.*

Neuropsychiatry: The Second Edition of a Classic Text

Neuropsychological Assessment of Neuropsychiatric Disorders (2nd ed.). I. Grant and K.M. Adams (Eds.). 1996. New York: Oxford University Press. 654 pp., $61.60.

Reviewed by Jeanette Wasserstein, Ph.D., *Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, The Mount Sinai Medical School and Co-director, Comprehensive Neuropsychological Services, 277 West End Avenue, Suite C, New York, NY 10023.*

Neuropsychological Assessment of Neuropsychiatric Disorders was originally published in 1986, and in 1996 was selected one of the "essential books and journals in North American Clinical Neuropsychology" in a survey of ABPP Diplomats. The Second Edition promises to maintain this position. As was the case in the original, the editors aimed to (1) present leading approaches to neuropsychological assessment in neuropsychiatric populations; and (2) evaluate current understanding of the neuropsychology of more important or problematic disorders. Organization of this edition follows that of the First Edition. The first section covers methods of neuropsychological assessment and the second section covers targeted neuropsychiatric disorders. This edition also adds a third section on psychosocial consequences and moderating factors in neuropsychological impairment, particularly as illustrated in people with head injury and chronic pulmonary disease. Two-thirds of the original authors, as well as 25 new authors, contributed. More often than not these contributors are leading authorities in their respective topic.

There are 23 chapters in all, three more than in the First Edition. Many were restructured, or expanded, to include topics not previously covered, such as the Iowa–Benton approach, cognitive screening methods, and computers and memory in the first part. The second part now also covers Tourette's syndrome, schizophrenia, HIV infection, hypox-

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emia and Huntington's disease. The bulk of the book still is devoted to neuropsychiatric populations in part II, with part I and part III providing important context. Each section is compelling on its own.

Part I (six chapters) fairly exhaustively describes the different approaches to neuropsychological assessment. This is especially useful to the neuropsychologist trained in only one, or a few, perspectives. It covers the history of the field, psychometric *versus* analytic or qualitative approaches, fixed *versus* flexible batteries, pros and cons of using technicians, the concept of hypothesis testing, differing functions of neuropsychological input, various standardized mental status exams, and trends in computerized assessment. This is truly a neuropsychologist's section and provides access to many of the founders of the field. Nowhere else are as many different significant authors and approaches presented in the same place.

Part II (14 chapters) ambitiously brings together current thinking, findings and methods from behavioral neurology, cognitive psychology, neuropsychology and neuropsychiatry. Bibliographies are comprehensive and span a scholarly time frame. Indexes are functional and include the essential one for tests. Particularly helpful are the detailed discussions of most frequently used tests and relevant profiles. Most chapters review broadly and pointedly state key remaining questions. It is very useful for the clinician confronted with a novel patient, or when one wants a more current discussion of a well-known problem. It is also a very useful reference for the neuropsychology researcher seeking a quick review of new, or not new, topics in neuropsychiatry.

Part III (three chapters) discusses traditional moderating factors in clinical outcomes, such as secondary gain, malingering, activities of daily living, functional independence, and social supports. It also deepens the discussion of psychosocial consequences by sensitizing the reader to less frequently considered dimensions, such as individual thresholds, base rate considerations, sexual and social role functioning, coping strategies and self-perception of illness. Numerous very useful rating scales and other adaptive functioning measures are described. The role of neuropsychological findings in rehabilitation and litigation, as well as in medical management of systematic diseases, is considered. The last, medical neuropsychology, is a particularly compelling and (I believe) expanding direction which deserves attention.

There are some limits. Of course the universe of neuropsychiatric populations could not be included. Yet the expansion of topics covered in part II seems incomplete. I personally would have liked more in-depth treatment of the emerging literature regarding the neuropsychology of obsessive–compulsive disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and immunological disorders. These populations are often seen in outpatient settings and are thus of interest to many readers. Also several previously covered topics, such as "Adults With Central Processing Deficiencies in Childhood" or "Outcome Following Psychosurgery" are not included. Others, such as traumatic brain injury, are distributed across many sections. Perhaps the Third Edition will discuss the boundaries of neuropsychiatric, psychiatric, psychoneurotic, and neurological illnesses. Secondly, some important issues, such as subcortical profiles, cognitive disorders in depression, effect of demographics on performance, and malingering, are discussed in more than one chapter. Inconsistencies emerge which are not reconciled. Nevertheless, the subject index is excellent and does help one search and evaluate these problems. Lastly, some of the neuropsychological tests discussed are outdated and new ones (upcoming at the time of publication) are not noted (e.g., WAIS–III and WMS–III).

In conclusion, this book stands out among textbooks of neuropsychiatry and is particularly attuned to neuropsychological concerns. Overall the chapters are very well written, well organized and well referenced. Consistent with the intent of the editors, specific test batteries and expected profiles are typically provided, as are critical discussions of implications, caveats, and research issues. The major criticism is that there is not more of it. In short, this volume is an outstanding reference for both clinical and research needs.

A Valid Assessment of Contemporary Neuropsychology?

Contemporary Approaches to Neuropsychological Assessment. G. Goldstein and T.M. Incagnoli (Eds.). 1997. New York: Plenum Press. 420 pp., $65.00.

Reviewed by William Milberg, Ph.D., GRECC, VAMC 1400 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, MA 02132.

This collection of generally well written reviews is sure to elicit a variety of reactions from readers interested in the field of clinical neuropsychology. Many, particularly those new to neuropsychology will likely appreciate this well organized and clearly written compilation of chapters edited by Gerald Goldstein and Theresa M. Incagnoli. The 12 chapters written by some of clinical neuropsychology's plenipotentiaries cover the main assessment systems currently employed in the United States. There are also chapters concerned with the evaluation of such special populations as severely demented older adults and children. In addition there are introductory chapters covering longstanding debates that still occupy some quarters of the neuropsychological community. To this group of readers *Contemporary Approaches to Neuropsychological Assessment* will serve as an intellectual "county fair" where experts have proudly displayed the best of their "wares": the test systems and ideas with which they have long been associated. However, there will also be

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readers who will find this compilation disconcerting. From the perspective of many clinicians who are more familiar with the field, including those who must make a living in the real world of managed care and the increasing disillusionment of traditional medical allies of clinical neuropsychology (e.g., behavioral neurology, the court system, etc.), this volume will appear overly optimistic and in some cases anachronistic.

Most working clinicians are aware of the daily pressure to find more streamlined and efficient means of collecting neuropsychologically valid data and the increased pressure from referring physicians to provide specific information that is clinically relevant to diagnosis and treatment planning. In 1996 the Therapeutics and Technology Assessment Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology raised the ire of many practicing neuropsychologists when it provided recommendations that were critical of the validity of neuropsychological tests (e.g., "No neuropsychological tests have been shown to have consistent diagnostic validity") and were seen by many as unfairly limiting the scope of referrals for testing. Rather than devoting so much space to the seemingly irreconcilable debate on such well worn issues as the superiority of fixed *versus* flexible batteries (as in chapters 2 and 3) the editors would have done a great service by confronting such truly contemporary issues as how we as a field are to arrive at a set of modern validity criteria and goals for the enterprise of neuropsychological assessment in general.

Many of the chapters contain perspectives that seem frozen in a time when test batteries could be administered at leisure to patients who resided on hospital wards for many weeks or even months, when the major referral question for neuropsychology was "rule out organicity," and one could count on the fingers of one hand the journals concerned with neuropsychological research. This perspective is exemplified in the use of such terms as the "minor hemisphere" (chapter 4, p. 94) that seem to belong to another era, and in such statements as, "Aside from the development of new tests . . . computer processing . . . is the only area in neuropsychology in which a major advance has occurred in the last ten years" (chapter 3, p. 25). If there have been no new developments in the technology or theory of neuropsychological assessment it certainly isn't because of a lack of data. The half-dozen or so journals that were available in the 1980s have grown to over 100 periodicals that now cover brain–behavior relationships in one form or another. Though there is a chapter on the role of computer technology in assessment and an ironically brief but well written chapter by Marcie Wallace Ritter and Lisa Morrow discussing some of the possible relevancies of cognitive psychology to neuropsychology, there is little recognition that these developments can be used to purchase improvements in validity and the updating of clinical measures used in all of the major extant testing systems. Will developments come by merely porting existing measures into computer form or by first updating assessment techniques that in some cases have been with us since the Civil War? The Sequin–Godard Form board for example, the basis of the Tactual Performance Test, a centerpiece of the Halstead–Reitan Battery (HRB), was first published in 1866 (Sequin 1866). Note that this example is not meant to single out the HRB: one could find examples of similarly hoary assessment technology in all of the systems reviewed in this book. More likely the answer to the problem of developing relevant, focused and cost-effective measures will be found in a fundamental updating of tests to reflect what we currently know about the brain and what we want to know about the brain damaged patient in the context of current clinical and economic demands. Wherever the answer lies, the questions have first to be posed. This volume, though competently showcasing the characteristics of existing testing systems, avoids the hard questions that beg to be asked.

Though some of the pride with which these chapters are written is well deserved (clinical neuropsychology has established itself as an important and recognized specialty within psychology for good reason) there are many other competing resources that place information about neuropsychological test instruments at a reader's fingertips. This book does not stand out from the pack. Many contemporary readers would have benefited and taken note of a new reference work that seasoned the optimism of this volume with a realistic evaluation of neuropsychology as a modern clinical practice and guidance toward adapting to these challenges in the future.

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