

Q 35 list in word file, outline style, integrate similar suggestions

Please use the space below to provide any other comments you think may be helpful to improve and/or move forward BRAIN and the board certification process.

Index	Comments	Count	Additional Comments
1.	BRAIN events organization	3	Brain has had a dinner at a conference in the distant past. I think it was in Atlanta. Lots of fun but poorly organized - the planners didn't ask for money up front, but guaranteed a number to the restaurant - and then several people didn't show.
			I wonder if it would be helpful to have a booth/ table at a conference.
			I would not be against social functions with Brain members, but I do not feel the need to add more social meetings to my time at conferences.
2.	BRAIN content enhancement recommendations	11	Video (mock video) of the orals would potentially be helpful, particularly for neuropsychologists who are more isolated, with limited access to other candidates or diplomats with whom to study/practice.
			Enlisting members to update and expand Wiki study notes.
			I think there should be a legitimate appeals process for contesting bad questions. I'm not talking about allowing contesting of 20+ questions. But, I think there should be room to make a case for 1 or 2 questions -- when the cost, time, etc., implications are so great for a re-take.
			advocate for receiving feedback times on application and test results in a timely and efficient manner. It took 4 months for me to receive word that my application had been accepted and over 5 weeks to get my test results. In this day and age it seems ridiculous that it takes so long to get test results back.
			Maybe some suggestions/advice from the older/more experienced folks who hve full time jobs and full time families...and are having a hard time figuring out the best way to study (when I was in grad school I was a full time student and had no kids--substantially different from 15 years later).
			Shorten the reading list but list books that are very helpful such as the textbook of clinical NP by Morgan and Richer, Lezak et al, etc

			A FAQ section on the website would be beneficial as the same questions often arise...e.g., "will there be questions on the WAIS-IV, V, VI (latest version that just came out?"...how comparable are the mock exams vs. the actual exam?....etc.
			Shorten the timeline and more succinct/targeted written/oral criteria for the examination.
			Examples good and bad practice samples with explanations.
			More clearly defined areas of expertise needed to be successful on the exam (and that reflect typical practice!). Part of this includes depth of knowledge; as previously mentioned there were some questions that were testing unusual or rare (some even odd)principles.
			More mock exams. I was scoring in the 80s when I took the written exam and failed, but I had taken each mock exam at least twice.
3.	Yet to explore BRAIN more to recommend	3	I am sure that there is a lot more use of BRAIN once you are actually going in the process. As I have yet to submit my application, it is too early for me to tell
			I am in the beginning stages--completing my specialty application. I plan on taking the NAN Neuroanatomy course first and then really cracking down on the other studying I have to do. So I don't have much to contribute at this point, unfortunately!
			I have a good background in Neuropsychology, but finished a while back. The Mock Exams helped me review what I had to recall, but I had been exposed to most of the information before, which might have made it easier than those who typically comment on th List serve. I did well on the exam. I used information from friends to complete the report samples and that went well- passed. I am not really using the website much for the orals, but I have a while. A friend who is also well-trained thought the grup study was comprised of rather tense people, so I guess that it is just going to vary based on training and on stress level.
4.	Good work/ keep going	10	I found all aspects very helpful as I would not have even known where to start without this group. Just keep doing what you are doing!
			I wish I had understood just how valuable the AACN listserv is. that would have been really motivating to me to finish the process sooner rather than later.

			I think it's a good resource. More utilization of the list-serve would be good.
			I think this is a great resource. I'm at the practice samples part so I would love to see some successful practice sample packages but maybe that would compromise the process.
			Please continue the work of BRAIN, and provide public recognition to those who started and continue it. BRAIN has been a great source of encouragement, and of excellent preparatory materials.
			I list the information above negatively only because I am through the process. I would have liked these things at the time I was studying.
			I am grateful to the time and effort BRAIN has made available. Certainly the effort has paid off, both in making the process smoother, and in making us all better in our careers.
			I truly admire all the great work that the members of the BRAIN administration, etc., have done for me and our field. Thank you for your time and thoughtfulness.
			The brain listserve has been a very helpful and supportive resource (especially when the field of neuropsychology can be competitive). It has been very confusing which books to focus my studies on and I was glad to see an overview study book published which would have been so helpful if it was available when I took the test earlier.
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5.	Study Group	5	My study group sort of disintegrated mostly because we were at different levels (newbies versus us "aged hippocampi" folks) and levels of cofort with things like Skype (don't know how to do it) and also different time zones. Two of us have kids--the other two didn't (more problematic time/distractions for studying).
			Start a separate group for intern/fellow supervisors so we can be up to date on how to advise students interested in ABPP.

			I did not find the survivors support group helpful. I contacted them and nothing really happened.
			I think there needs to be a way to transition from traditional book learning, to more general way to integrate all the information. I participated in a study group until it disbanded, and it was just going over the recommended readings.
			a better way to arrange study groups and chat perhaps?
6.	Add more statistics/ survey to match/ group	2	I think statistics on what people are actually studying and stats on who passed would be helpful. The study schedules are unrealistic for most people
			Use a short survey to sort candidates seeking groups. This might improve matching.
7.	Difficult process	2	Unfortunately, I found the process to be extraordinarily competitive, as if negative aspects of some neuropsychology listserves spilled over into the BRAIN process.
			It is very difficult to continue to move forward once you stumble on a step. I personally have been stuck at the practice sample stage for over a year once my initial submission was not accepted. If there is some way to provide more advice and support t help people persist past such challenges I think that would be helpful.
8.	Connect using Social Media	1	Now that you mention social media--I like that idea. I don't know how to use Twitter but Facebook might be nice.
9.	N/A	7	I haven't taken the written exam yet, but the survey wouldn't let me continue without saying that I've taken it at least 1 time. So I indicated that I passed after 1 exam when I actually haven't taken it.
			Not sure
			TBH I'm not sure. I am part of the "old" crowd- before the early path & widespread neuropsych post-doc tracks. My credentials were approved and I passed written with flying colors first time. I'm stuck at practice samples because I don't have access to te mentoring that comes inherent in post-docs where they give you tons of report templates and a pipeline of "clean neuro" cases. It's been hard to feel motivated to go to next stage.

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Although BRAIN is designed to assist all interested neuropsychologists in obtaining board certification, we are also interested in how to best facilitate the transition from formal postdoctoral...

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1.	Members should be licensed before joining	3	I think it's important to require members be licensed before joining.
			Perhaps passing written exam should be part of criteria to complete all post docs in clinical neuropsychology.
			Board certification is required.
2.	Getting word out (Start early)	8	Getting the word out early (during internship and/or postdoc) may encourage individuals to begin the process while the requisite information is fresher and start them on the process earlier in their career, before it becomes even more difficult to find time to prepare.
			Promote early entry program and encourage/provide incentives for getting the process done in approximately a year or two. The longer the process drags on the more overwhelming it becomes. Some people in my study group had been preparing on and off for several years (approx. 7).
			Although potentially complicated, there could be benefit in having some "break-out" lists for folks at specific career stages (e.g., right out of post-doc, mid-career, or late-career) to provide support relevant to a specific stage.
			Maybe having an informational session or gathering at conferences specifically for post docs transitioning. I do remember this happening at AACN a couple years back, but it wasn't really geared towards post docs.
			Begin education about board certification during grad school, and continue it in residency. The workshop by Professors Bieliauskas and Howieson was excellent and accessible. The materials from AACN, ABCN, Stucky et al., and Armstrong et al. are great. The mentoring support has been very helpful, too.
			It takes entirely too long and is very dependent upon mentorship and word of mouth. This needs to be improved from a professional practice perspective.
			Having mentors continue to emphasize the importance of being boarded even to their externs, but especially interns and postdoctoral fellows; It helped me to be motivated to start the process early by having the discount for the application (because I applied as a fellow)
3.	Integrate familiarity with BRAIN and ways	9	Integrate familiarity with BRAIN and practice written, oral and practice sample submission into post-doc training

	to do it /Suggestions for BRAIN		
			I wonder if it would be helpful to have a brochure (electronic) that I sent out to all training directors of post doc programs for them to distribute to post docs.
			Maybe have a separate section of the page devoted to post-docs with helpful hints and "I wish I had known..." type of things. I think just understanding the steps involved in getting ABPP was helpful as a post-doc
			I think that my trainees have really benefitted from joining brain during post-doc. We are just starting a new, 2-yr pair of post-docs, and I plan to encourage them to join.
			Easier access to sign up for BRAIN - it can be hard and/or time consuming to find a peer sponsor. Maybe having someone that an interested member can email a reference to and then contacting the reference.
			Perhaps having a Brain sub-list serve dedicated to those in transition from postdoc to independent practitioner? I don't know if those later in their career would want a list serve dedicated to those questions, perhaps they could opt out if not interested because later-career board certification applicants would certainly have good info to provide the early career folks.
			There is a broad range of formal postdoctoral training in neuropsychology. BRAIN seems to lean toward the narrow perspectives of the aspirational/traditional Houston Conference guidelines. BRAIN might attract more candidates interested in board certification by welcoming and supporting those with diverse non traditional training.
			A way to find other BRAIN members in your area for early career support and studying.... AACN has a list of board certified practitioners searchable by zip code- something similar for BRAIN would be nice.
			Reach out to the postdoc programs/training directors and have it become more streamlined that postdocs are introduced to BRAIN, and that they join during their residency.
4.	Not Sure (why)/ N/A	4	Not sure on that one, I'm further out from post-doc that some.
			Not sure, I think it is useful overall for its intended purpose.
			I think it is a daunting process. I like the idea that ped will now be separate from adult. I don't see why

5.	Provide resources to postdocs (ways to do this)	12	What about some kind of automated email system people could register for, and it would send reminder/encouragement emails with tidbits of neuropsych knowledge?
			Anything that encourages going after board certification as soon as possible after postdoc completion.
			There's too many stages, too many hoops to jump through. Honestly? ABPP-CN seems more focused on gate-keeping than it does on expansion and becoming the routine standard. There's not a lot to be gained for the amount of effort one has to put in. Let's fac it- neuropsych cert. is simply not the same as MD board cert no matter how much we wanna say it is. I agree with the idea in principal and want standards but MDs get ALOT more out of being boarded than PhDs. I feel like ABPP -CN has a blind-spot where ths is concerned.
			I think having a mentorship program for postdocs would be helpful.
			My formal training in neuropsychology took place prior to the Houston Conference guidelines and no mentors or supervisors in my program had board certification. I think the most important step is to have supervisors who are board certified encouraging their students to seek it ASAP and to build in support mechanisms for applying and studying within the postdoc experience.
			If first jobs provided resources (funding and time) for board certification preparation, that would be helpful. I think that this will occur as board certification becomes more popular.
			INS is a great place to catch the postdocs because everyone is interviewing. They should be thinking about board certification AT THAT POINT. I would try to capture them with a social/educational gathering where they learn about getting involved early. I had no idea about the early entry program and probably would have done this differently if I had.
			encouraging postdocs to sit for the written during their 2nd year
			Board certification process should be started in postdoc and candidates during postdoc should be able to pass written exam.
			Also, the lower price for starting the process during post-doc has spurred several past trainees to complete their certification even before I have! It seems to get them focused and "on track" as they progress through training.

			Unsure. Maybe implement something for postdocs at the APPCN level (like a prepping for boards packet). How does medicine deal with this? Do they have procedures we can learn from?
			Mentorship and postdoctoral study groups.
6.	People who are finishing their post doc	2	The exam should be done toward the end of post-doc, when you have more time to study and it also ensures you'll get to the next step pretty quickly; BRAIN should advocate for that
			I think targeting trainees who are finishing post doc (not all go to board sites) to provide the information of all the resources available now to assist. I think not knowing the resources available to study and receive support can be a major obstacle since study books and practice tests aren't as available at the bookstore in comparison to medical school boards. Hopefully that will change with the newly published study book.
7.	Extent resources to mature clinicians too	2	Maybe also have a resource for "mature" clinicians too.
			For older practitioners there is need to assess depth /breadth of training/knowledge especially if not doing research or not in hospital setting. Stats, neurotransmitters, brain circuits were daunting. Learning peds disorders requires a large time commitment for adult clinicians.
8.	Help with time management/ motivation	2	Helping to manage time and allow extra time to learn material is also important.
			The hardest part is being/staying motivated and staying on track, esp. when it feels overwhelming.
9.	Validate and reliable study material	1	For a specialty that prides itself in being evidence based and disciplined, it is frankly, surprising, that there is not a formalized study program available. Please create one and leave this ad hoc multi branched maze behind. When I read on the Listserv that one individual has tried to pass 3 times, and he is studying the amount of time that he has noted, and is still not clear why he is not passing, it is both embarrassing (that we are not doing a better job preparing our candidates), and sad (that he is not being given enough feedback UPSTREAM so that he can correct the problem). With the study materials that I noted earlier in the survey, physicians are given effective feedback so that they can correct their study process. We need validated and reliable study materials.