

# SOUTH AFRICAN CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

## 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial SACNA Conference

10, 11 & 12 March 2010  
The Indaba Hotel & Conference Centre  
Fourways, Johannesburg, South Africa

### INVITATION

The South African Neuropsychological Association (SACNA) is honoured to invite you to our 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, which will be held at the Indaba Hotel and Conference Centre in Fourways Johannesburg from 10 to 12 March 2010.

With our country hosting the Soccer World Cup, 2010 is set to be a momentous year in the history of South African sport. Johannesburg will be in prime condition with most of the road works hopefully complete and maybe the Gautrain will even be in operation by the time of the conference. 2010 will also be an exciting year for the South African neuropsychological community as the 12th biennial conference is set to be a bumper event not to be missed.

The SACNA conferences are well known among South African psychologists for their high standard of speakers and high level of organisation. The 2010 conference will be no exception as we are privileged to host two exceptional international keynote presenters, as well as a number of local invited speakers and the organising committee has been hard at work to ensure that this conference lives up to the usual standard.

This is an ideal forum for researchers from a variety of disciplines who are involved in research related to brain and behaviour to showcase their work. We therefore encourage you to submit your abstracts timeously. The conference is also an opportunity for psychologists to network with colleagues, exchange ideas and enjoy our social programme. The conference will be an important learning opportunity for anyone with an interest in brain function. Students as well as those who are starting out in the neuropsychological field and/or related fields are especially welcome.

We look forward to meeting you at this exciting event.

**Brian Mallinson**  
(Chairman: Organising Committee)

# INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

## Professor Sergio Della Sala

Established Chair of Human Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Edinburgh, UK

Professor Sergio Della Sala holds a degree in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Milan (where he was also first appointed as Consultant in Neurology) and he has a PhD in Neuropsychology. He joined the University of Edinburgh in April 2004 from Aberdeen where he held the Chair of Neuropsychology for over 10 years. He has held appointments at various institutions, including the University of Milan - Italy, the University of Berkeley - California, the Applied Psychology Unit – Cambridge, the University of Western Australia - Perth.

His research focuses on the relationship between brain and behaviour, with particular reference to memory and amnesia and the cognitive impairments associated with Alzheimer's Disease. He has published over 350 papers in peer-reviewed journals, as well as several monographs. He is the editor of *Cortex*. He is also interested in the dissemination of science and, wearing that hat, has organized several events and exhibitions, particularly addressed to young people; he is an active member of the Skeptical Inquirers society for the promotion of critical thinking and the recipient of the first (2009) Tam Dalyell Prize for Excellence in Engaging the Public in Science.

Professor Della Sala will be speaking on the use and misuse of neuroscience in education. This presentation should be particularly pertinent to educational psychologists, but all of us will learn from his warnings not to oversimplify the findings from neuroscience and over-interpret the outcome. He will also be presenting on the topic of retroactive interference as an account for amnesia and on the fascinating topic of Anarchic Hand Syndrome, which demonstrates that agency and free will might be rooted in our brain.

## Professor Bryan Kolb

Canadian Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience, University of Lethbridge.

Professor Bryan Kolb is one of the founding fathers of modern behavioural neuroscience in Canada. Over the past two decades he has challenged long-held scientific beliefs about the brain's structure, organization and ability to regenerate, with profound implications for treatment of brain injury, drug addiction and conditions such as stroke and Alzheimer's disease. Professor Kolb and his team were the first in the world to demonstrate that the brains of mammals could regenerate after injury under certain conditions, contrary to traditional scientific belief. He also overturned a scientific myth that children recover better than adults from brain injury, by showing that there are critical times when the reverse is true.

Professor Kolb has earned numerous honours, including the Hebb Lecturer prize from Dalhousie University and the Hebb Prize from both the Canadian Psychological Association and the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science. No other scientist has won all three Hebb prizes. He is a member of the prestigious International Neuropsychology Symposium – known as the “Group of One Hundred” – comprising the world's most eminent behavioural neuroscientists.

Professor Kolb will be presenting on brain plasticity in the developing and adult brain. This presentation will include information on various aspects of brain development and information on leading edge work showing how experience can influence brain organisation in adulthood and interact with brain perturbations throughout life. Various ethical issues related to brain plasticity and behaviour will also be covered. He will also be presenting on identifying principles of brain plasticity, he will review the cascade of neural changes following neural injury and providing us with a summary of recent advances in the development of new rehabilitation strategies.

## **SOUTH AFRICAN KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

### **Professor Merryll Vorster**

Vice-Dean, University of the Witwatersrand, Faculty of Health Sciences

Professor Vorster holds an MMed degree in Psychiatry as well as a PhD (Med) in Forensic Psychiatry. She also has a Certificate in Medicine and Law from UNISA and a diploma in International Research Ethics from UCT. She is a past president of the South African Society of Psychiatry and she has presented at numerous conferences, seminars and workshops both nationally and internationally on the topic of ethics in psychiatry and psychology. Professor Vorster will be presenting a keynote address on ethics in neuropsychology.

## **CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

Brian Mallinson (Chair), Annelies Cramer, Barbara Donaldson, Elizabeth Wallis

## **CPD POINTS**

We will be applying for 18 CPD points, of which five will be for Ethics

## **SACNA MEMBERS REGISTRATION**

Paid -up SACNA members are entitled to a membership discount on the registration fee. If members register and pay before 15 December they qualify for an early bird rate aswell, a saving of R750 on the full fee.