



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY
UCSD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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Marilyn Albert, Ph.D.
Russell Bauer, Ph.D.
John Gabrieli, Ph.D.
Andrew Mayes, Ph.D.
Alex Martin, Ph.D.
Art Shimamura, Ph.D.

Dear Colleague:

I am writing about the session on Standardization and Assessment that has been scheduled at the meeting of the Memory Disorders Research Society. I am delighted that you are interested in taking an active role in the session as a discussion leader. What I have in mind is a 15-20 minute introduction to the issues that I would present prior to lunch. After lunch, beginning at 1:30, we would divide into six discussion groups, each led by one of you. The discussion groups would continue for some 45-60 minutes. Then, for a plenary session, discussion leaders would present a 5-minute (maximum) summary for their respective groups, which would be followed by general discussion. The session closes at 3:30.

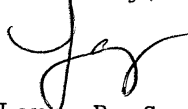
Because time is short and because this issue is coming up for the first time, we may not complete our work at this meeting. However, we should have the opportunity for a thorough discussion of several important points. The kinds of issues that will need discussion include:

1. Is there a need for developing a standardized approach to characterizing amnesic patients? (Y)
2. Should we aim to identify a group of tests that everyone would want to (agree to) administer to their amnesic study patients? (Y)
3. Should one objective be that the scores for such a group of tests would come to be included in the Methods sections of experimental articles that involve amnesic patients? (Y)
4. What criteria should one have in mind for test selection? — (Y)
5. Should such a group of tests be mainly memory tests (to quantify the severity of impairment)? Or should the tests be more broadly neuropsychological and focus on the overall status of the patients, including the selectivity of the memory impairment? (Y)
6. How long should such a group of tests take to administer?

I am sure you will want to include additional issues in your agenda as well. We do not have a lot of time. However, we can perhaps make a start on an important and interesting issue, and we can see how much consensus can be reached. One possible conclusion is that there will be little interest

in standardizing testing or in forcing particular tests into laboratories. Alternatively, there could be so much interest that we might want to select a task force to develop a battery that would be presented at the next meeting. In any case, it seems important to make a start and I look forward to working with you to make the session as productive as possible.

Sincerely,



Larry R. Squire, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

LRS/lf

cc: L. Cermak, Ph.D.