

BRAIN GUIDELINES AND BRAIN-AACNSTUDY LIST-SERVE TERMS OF USE

Members of BRAIN are expected to conform to the ethical guidelines of the American Psychological Association (APA). Any member of BRAIN who is judged to have made an ethical infraction sufficient to warrant expulsion from APA or disqualification from the board certification process of the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN) will be removed from BRAIN and disqualified from later participation. Further, regardless of official sanction by other agencies, any member who is discovered to have made an obvious ethical infraction of a nature particularly relevant to BRAIN (e.g., divulging ABCN test materials) will be removed from the group. Removed members will have access to publicly-available web materials, but not list-serve communications.

Purpose of the list-serve

The BRAIN-AACNSTUDY list serve, the official list-server for the Be Ready for ABPP In Neuropsychology (BRAIN) study group, is a controlled-access listserve created to facilitate exchange of useful information among individuals who are preparing for examination through ABCN, and for those who have completed that process and would like to foster the development of prospective examinees. It is not intended for members of the lay public, nor for professionals who have not completed and are not actively preparing for ABPP/ABCN certification.

Relationship between BRAIN-AACNSTUDY, BRAIN, the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN), and the ABCN.

The BRAIN-AACNSTUDY list serve, though populated exclusively by BRAIN members, is hosted via the University of Michigan as a courtesy. Under routine conditions, it is moderated only by BRAIN members. However, the administration of University of Michigan has access to the list and, if needed, can intervene in list operations.

As of 3/2007, when the list-serve migrated to a University of Michigan server, the AACN as an organization ceased to have direct control of the BRAIN list-serve. However, it should be noted that at least two dozen BRAIN members have completed the ABCN certification process and have become members of the AACN. Also, in early 2007 the BRAIN leadership council accepted the invitation of the AACN to form a standing AACN committee that would be responsible for reporting to AACN on our efforts and progress. In this manner AACN would be able to provide funding for projects that might help to further the goals of BRAIN. Further, building those connections with the AACN may further promote BRAIN's ability to develop study materials that appropriately emphasize topics for the ABCN examination. Finally, this relationship will promote the visibility of BRAIN, supporting the shared mission of both BRAIN and the AACN to help competent neuropsychologists become board certified. We have been assured that the AACN (as an agency) has no interest in controlling, dictating, or manipulating how BRAIN runs. In the event significant concerns about this relationship arise in the future, the relationship readily could be dissolved. Both BRAIN and the AACN remain independent of the ABCN. That is, we are not involved in the writing, revision, administration, or scoring of the tests. Hence, there is no conflict of interest in our becoming more closely allied with the AACN.

Risks of Participation in BRAIN-AACNSTUDY

With a membership exceeding 200 as of 6/2007, the confidentiality of material shared on the list cannot be assured. *NEVER POST CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION TO BRAIN-AACNSTUDY. Also, NEVER USE YOUR E-MAIL REPLY BUTTON TO A LIST-SERVE POSTING UNLESS YOU INTEND FOR THE RESPONSE TO GO TO THE ENTIRE LIST.* Even if you delete the list-serve name from the "To" address line, some e-mail software will still send your response to everyone on the list-serve. If you mean to contact an individual list-serve member "back channel" (i.e., without your message going to the entire list), it is best to launch a new e-mail and to manually enter that individual's e-mail address.

PROHIBITION FROM DIVULGING ABCN TEST CONTENT

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING ABCN TEST CONTENT BE DIVULGED ON THE LIST-SERVE. Because the BRAIN-AACNSTUDY list-serve and BRAIN study group were designed to offer support for those in the preparation for the ABCN examination

process, there is the potential for intentional or unintentional breach of the confidentiality of the ABCN written or oral examination. Everyone who takes the ABCN written or oral examination has signed an agreement not to divulge its contents, and the APA ethical code would further prohibit such acts. Beyond these codified prohibitions, please be aware that the fidelity of the ABCN exam, BRAIN's positive working relationship with the AACN, and the fidelity of the BRAIN list-serve are all threatened when a member reveals specific information about the ABCN examination content. Consequently, if the leadership group of BRAIN identifies a specific revelation of ABCN test content on the list-serve, the BRAIN member will be removed from the list-serve and the violation will be reported to the ABCN so that appropriate modifications can be made to the examination. List-serve postings can not be considered confidential.

Because the BRAIN-AACNSTUDY list-serve is intended to serve the mission of BRAIN as a support network, general advice regarding how to prepare for the examination is encouraged. Caution should be taken, though, to ensure that the advice refers to general content areas and the general depth in which material should be studied, NOT to specific test questions or content.

Examples of acceptable postings:

1. "The mock exam seemed easier than the real thing, and especially seemed to be lacking in questions related to classic neurological syndromes."
2. "There was more coverage of psychometrics than I thought there would be."
3. "Make sure you review multicultural issues."
4. "The level of neuroanatomy detail in Blumenfeld's book (e.g., he has THREE brainstem chapters!) often goes way beyond what you'll need to know for the exam."

Examples of unacceptable postings (these are fictitious and may or may not reflect the actual ABCN exam content):

1. "Luckily, I had read up on Balint's Syndrome before going in."
2. "I can't believe that there wasn't ANY question about malingering/effort tests!"
3. "Don't worry about the cerebellum—there wasn't anything on the test about it."
4. "The fact finding case with the kid who had suffered a stroke totally threw me for a loop."

Other Rules of Conduct on BRAIN-AACNSTUDY

Here are additional Rules of Conduct that are to be respected when posting messages:

1. Each individual member is responsible for the content he or she posts.
2. Copyrighted material should not be posted unless permission has been obtained from the copyright holder. Hyperlinks and excerpted material from online resources are acceptable provided the content is not linked in a way that misrepresents the source of the content, and that the origin of such material is clearly indicated. The poster of such information is responsible for obtaining copyright permissions if necessary.
3. Original material posted to BRAIN-AACNSTUDY should be understood to remain the intellectual property of the message author. We encourage anyone who is open to wide distribution of their original material (e.g., study notes) to make this clear in their posting. If permission to distribute is not made clear, and you wish to share material from BRAIN-AACNSTUDY with persons who are not members of BRAIN-AACNSTUDY or BRAIN, you are required to obtain the permission of the original author.
4. Sign all messages you post to BRAIN-AACNSTUDY.
5. You may not forward messages from BRAIN-AACNSTUDY to parties not on the list without the author's permission.
6. You are specifically prohibited from posting unacceptable content to BRAIN-AACNSTUDY. This includes specific information regarding ABCN test content, overt promotion of commercial products for personal gain, spam, malware, viruses or spyware, and remarks that are inflammatory, defamatory, personal attacks, or "Flames" (see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flame_war). In addition, it is requested that general professional questions (e.g., seeking advice on a clinical case) be directed towards more appropriate venues (e.g., the child or adult neuropsychology list-serves), so that exam-prep postings remain dominant on the BRAIN-AACNSTUDY list.

These rules were adapted from the PED-NPSY terms of use, and are believed to capture professional expectations and standards of practice. Many thanks to Steve Hughes, Ph.D., moderator of PED-NPSY, for permitting the adaptation and posting of these rules. Last updated 10/22/2007.