
In Memoriam

Charles G. Matthews, Ph.D.
March 30, 1930–April 19, 1998

Charles G. Matthews will be missed for his enormous contributions to clinical neuropsychology, but even more for his wisdom, integrity, wit, humility, compassion, and eloquence. It was these personal characteristics which made Chuck an extraordinary, yet quiet leader. His influential role in the inception and continuing development of our major organizations earned him a position among our profession's "Founding Fathers." He was president of Division 40 (1989), INS (1991), and ABCN (1991–1993), but his influence spanned decades. He quietly served behind the scenes as an advisor to presidents of these organizations who recognized his perspicacity and ability to see all sides of a given issue.

While Chuck is best known for his leadership and teaching contributions, his research which was remarkably varied was also influential, spanning 42 years. His first publication in 1955 was on stuttering and his last in 1997 was on the neuropsychological correlates of sleep disordered breathing. Intervening studies included investigations of the neuropsychological correlates of encephalitis, neurotoxins, and multiple sclerosis. His work in epilepsy continued for 26 years with his initial study devoted to understanding the effect of seizure type, etiology, duration, and frequency on neuropsychological status. Later careful MMPI studies of patients with diverse seizure types and etiologies presaged the current interest in the behavioral implications of epilepsy. Like the rest of his life, Chuck's close personal relationships influenced his research by leading him to examine issues which were also important to his valued colleagues at the University of Wisconsin, including a study which assessed the impact of the then widely-touted Feingold diet on hyperactivity. Probably his best known work is his collaboration with Heaton and Grant which generated the normative standards for the extended Halstead Reitan Battery.

Chuck trained many of us, or he trained those who trained us. At the University of Wisconsin he directed one of America's best known and longest standing neuropsychology laboratories. The affection of those postdocs was evident on 7/31/92 when over 20 "old" postdocs and psychometrists gathered in Madison to celebrate his contributions to clinical neuropsychology. Because of Chuck "The Lab" was really a home to everyone who ever worked or trained there. He was much more than a mentor—he was his student's pro-



fessional father. His staff was incredibly loyal as evidenced by the many devoted psychometrists who worked with him for so many years. He brought out the best in all of us.

Regardless of all of these accomplishments we are most indebted to Chuck for his moral leadership which led many of us to seek his counsel on thorny issues. This is exemplified by his choice of topics for his INS Presidential Address. He set aside the tradition of talking about personal research accomplishments to highlight the "charitable" mandate of the INS which is among the organization's stated purposes but had been largely overlooked. His concerns for us and our profession were further stated in his 1995 NAN Distinguished Neuropsychologist address in which he called for maintenance of the highest standards, for renewed commitment to our patients and to our students, and for resistance to a variety of forces within our profession that he recognized as "dumbing down" influences.

Chuck had a way with words, even though his handwriting was often indecipherable. His early seminary training which he said put him on the "cutting edge of the thirteenth

century” influenced his eloquence and provided him with some idiosyncratic descriptions of patients and circumstances, e.g., litany of symptoms (somatoform tendencies), personal creed (delusions), inquisition (deposition), sacred doctrines (rules of interpretation).

In the last few years of his life Chuck suffered enormous physical pain. Even though he never wanted to call any attention to these burdens, the quiet manner in which he shouldered his physical difficulties, the extent of which we can only imagine, and his personal dignity in the face of it was truly astounding. While he considered many of his students

family, the constant strength and support of his wife, Dr. Gerry Matthews, and his daughter, Dr. Anne Margaret Matthews, was most important to him. This was no more apparent than in the last few years of his life.

We will miss him for all that he was and for all that he inspired us to be.

Kathleen Y. Haaland
Robert J. Ivnik
Thomas A. Hammeke
Bruce P. Hermann