

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS CHARLES G. MATTHEWS

Charles G. Matthews, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor of Neurology and founder and former Director of the UW Hospital and Clinics Neuropsychology Laboratory, died on April 19, 1998. Chuck, as he was known to friends and colleagues, was awarded his undergraduate degree at St. John's University in 1951, Master of Arts in Psychology from the University of South Dakota in 1955, and Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology from Purdue University in 1958. After working in Indiana as a clinical psychologist and neuropsychologist during his early career years, Chuck subsequently joined the Neurology faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1962, serving with great distinction for 35 years. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Geraldine Matthews, and their daughter Anne Margaret Matthews.

During his extraordinarily broad career, Chuck achieved national and international prominence for his clinical research, postdoctoral training program, and his untiring efforts that literally helped to establish clinical neuropsychology as a specialty field within psychology and neurology. Shortly after his arrival in Wisconsin, Chuck initiated a significant and sustained interest in epilepsy, his publications spanning a 26-year period (1966-1992). With his students and collaborators in the Department of Neurology, Chuck published an extensive series of sophisticated studies examining the effects of seizure type, etiology, duration, and frequency and severity of seizures on neuropsychological and behavioral status. The findings from these publications, replicated around the world, form an essential core in our understanding of the effects of epilepsy on neurobehavioral status. His research contributions to epilepsy resulted in membership on the Professional Advisory Board of the Epilepsy Foundation of America where he provided guidance regarding research and clinical issues and was an untiring advocate for neuropsychology. Chuck's later interests and publications emphasized the development of comprehensive normative data for various neuropsychological tests and may represent the work for which he is best known by contemporary clinical neuropsychologists.

Chuck established one of the first and longest running post-doctoral training programs in neuropsychology. His quiet, calm, and unassuming demeanor masked adroit clinical assessment capabilities that made him an extraordinarily effective and revered clinical instructor and mentor to over 30 neuropsychologists and numerous other trainees from other disciplines. Many of these students went on to assume equally prominent positions in the field of neuropsychology and established their own laboratories and postdoctoral training programs.

Through his efforts, Chuck literally helped to shape and define the profession of clinical neuropsychology. He co-authored the training guidelines for neuropsychology, the process for professional board certification, and many of his other publications and guidelines that have become the foundation of this field. In the later stages of his career Chuck was the singular voice asking American neuropsychologists to assist their colleagues in countries where clinical neuropsychology was less developed. He was a founding member of the important professional organizations in the field of neuropsychology, including Division 40 (Clinical Neuropsychology) of the American Psychological Association, the International Neuropsychological Society, and the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology, later serving as president of these organizations. His wise council was sought by the majority of his successors in each of these organizations where he remained active into his retirement, and in the final months of his life was nominated for president of the National Academy of Neuropsychology. His stature in the field was simply unparalleled.

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Despite these vast accomplishments, Chuck is most cherished by his students and closest colleagues for the extraordinary example he set of modest, humble service to others. He had the uncanny ability to see the unique potential in each of us and the even rarer gift of helping us achieve this potential. Chuck's numerous professional and personal accomplishments were all the more remarkable in that he suffered considerable physical pain throughout much of his career due to unrelentingly progressive rheumatoid arthritis. Because of his extraordinary courage and unshakeable faith, he endured this pain and the inherent forced restrictions with quiet acceptance and little complaint. Although a common man, he had uncommon gifts that touched countless lives, and his presence lives on in the teaching, research and clinical activities of his students and colleagues. All those who knew Chuck would wish him the rest and peace promised in this prayer by John Henry Newman:

May God support us all the day long till the shadows
Lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world
Is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done.
Then in His mercy, may He give us a safe lodging
And a holy rest and peace at the last.

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