

# 2

## A HISTORY OF DIVISION 6 (BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE AND COMPARATIVE PSYCHOLOGY): NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T, NOW YOU SEE IT

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In 1995, Division 6 of the American Psychological Association (APA) adopted a new name: the Division of Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology. Known by its original name, the Division of Physiological and Comparative Psychology, since its founding, Division 6 has been a focus for the interests of the comparative and physiological approaches in psychology since the inception of the division structure. It has been through Division 6 that physiological and comparative psychologists have found representation within the APA and have worked to ensure a place for their approaches within the rich fabric of U.S. psychology.

Although it was a charter division established during the 1940s, the history of Division 6 is discontinuous; it disappeared in 1948, only to reappear in 1963, and it may be in danger of disappearing once more. Division 6 can boast of outstanding accomplishments, but it has been beset by serious difficulties as well. Underlying some of the major shifts in the early history of the division is the question of the unity or diversity of experi-

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There are many individuals who merit acknowledgment for providing various materials and information included in this history and for answering my various letters and pestering. At the risk of neglecting some who have made major contributions, I will single out Herbert C. Lansdell, Donald B. Lindsley, and Sidney Weinstein for special thanks for their roles in gathering materials and responding to my requests. I thank Thomas Dalton, Herbert Lansdell, Donald Lindsley, Wade Pickren, James Todd, William Verplanck, and Randall Wight for comments on earlier drafts of this manuscript.

mental approaches to the study of behavior: The division changed as broader shifts occurred in the emphases and alliances among subdisciplines shifted.

## THE INITIAL FOUNDING OF DIVISION 6

The unity of psychology and of the APA has repeatedly been threatened by splits between basic and applied interests throughout the twentieth century (see Evans, Sexton, & Cadwallader, 1992). The development of the American Association of Applied Psychology (AAAP) posed such a threat and was an important stimulus in the convening of a series of committee and subcommittee meetings concerning reorganization during the war years of 1942–1944 (Doll, 1946; D. Wolfle, 1946). A new set of APA bylaws was adopted, and the AAAP was merged into the APA. A prominent feature of the new APA was a divisional structure. It is worth noting that a psychobiologist was a prime mover in effecting the acceptance of the new APA: “The membership has Professor [Robert] Yerkes, more than any other one person, to thank for its new constitution” (D. Wolfle, 1946, p. 3). Although the new organization worked well for many years, the basic versus applied dichotomy was at the root of many divisional controversies.

An initial survey of interests in prospective divisions was mailed to psychologists early in 1944. Nineteen prospective divisions were listed alphabetically. A proposed Division of Animal Psychology was listed as Division 2 and that of Physiological Psychology as Division 13. In selections by 2,791 psychologists of the single, primary division in which they were most interested, Physiological Psychology ranked 8th with 125 votes (4.5%) and Animal Psychology was 18th with just 35 votes (1.3%) (Doll, 1946). Hilgard (1945a, p. 22) concluded “that psychologists do not think of themselves as animal psychologists or as comparative psychologists in any considerable numbers is shown by the rating of animal psychology.”

The results of these rankings were used to propose a modified divisional structure, with a hierarchical arrangement led by Divisions 1 (General) and 2 (Teaching). When the new APA bylaws were adopted in 1944, they incorporated 19 charter divisions, including Division 6, the Division of Physiological and Comparative Psychology, which was formed by combining the originally proposed Divisions 2 and 13 (Olson, 1944).

From the beginning it was recognized that there would be flux in the divisional structure. New divisions could be formed on petition from 50 or more associates and fellows. Divisions could be dissolved when the number of members fell below 50 or if two thirds of the total membership of the division recommended dissolution (Olson, 1944).

The possibility of combining Divisions 3 and 6 was raised even before the initial divisional structure was adopted. Lindsley (1981) recalled that

in one of those classic hotel room meetings at the 1944 joint meeting of the APA and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Edward Tolman was already lobbying to include physiological and comparative psychology within a broadened Division of Theoretical-Experimental Psychology, as Division 3 was then called, because he believed that the areas should be unified. Others, who disagreed, carried the day, and thus separate divisions were formed. That decision would soon be reversed.

The temporary chairman of Division 6 was Clifford T. Morgan of Harvard University; the temporary secretary was B. F. Skinner of the University of Minnesota (Hilgard, 1945b). In 1945, Donald G. Marquis was elected as the first *chairman*; the title was changed to *president* soon thereafter. Roger B. Loucks was elected secretary and Frank A. Beach and Donald B. Lindsley were the initial division representatives to the APA Council. Marquis was succeeded as president by Donald B. Lindsley and Clifford T. Morgan.

The fledgling Division 6 was small but appeared strong. Helen Wolfe (1948) prepared "A Comparison of the Strength and Weakness of the APA Divisions," and reported data for eight parameters for the 18 existing divisions. By her criteria, only two divisions, Division 6 and Division 12 (Clinical), ranked in the upper half with regard to seven of the eight variables considered. She noted that "a division can be small and still show up well on all other counts, as does the Division of Physiological and Comparative Psychology" (p. 380). The lone measure on which Division 6 was found wanting was its size. Division 6 was cited as one of only six in which 2% or fewer of the members had resigned from the division. Division 6 easily led all of the divisions with regard to the number of programs presented at the annual meeting per 100 members. Division 6 presented 16.3 programs per 100 members; the next highest was Division 19 (Military) with 10.5. Together, these data reveal a picture of a small division, but one made up of members committed to the APA and their division and who supported both in their activities.

### AMALGAMATION OF DIVISION 6 WITH DIVISION 3

Division 6 was short-lived in its initial incarnation, as the decision was soon made to amalgamate Divisions 6 and 3. The proceedings of the APA business meetings of September 1948 and 1949 show the following entry: "The Executive Secretary announced the merger of the Division of Theoretical-Experimental Psychology and the Division of Physiological and Comparative Psychology" (Peak, 1949, p. 462). The paper trail surrounding the events leading up to this decision is poor. However, it is clear

that the amalgamation was the voluntary, joint decision of the two divisions, not something forced on the divisions by the APA.

There seem to have been several reasons for the amalgamation. First, this was a time of great concern over fractionation within the APA. There was a fear that the divisions in the new structure could proliferate excessively to the detriment of the association as a whole. Verplanck (1992) called it "a futile attempt to maintain APA as a scientific and academic society rather than a predominantly professional one." Physiological and comparative psychology were not clearly differentiated from experimental psychology at this time. As noted by Frank Finger (1992),

Those who considered ourselves comparative and/or physiological were adamant in considering ourselves also experimental/theoretical, and there was no reason for fragmenting our programs or other interactions. . . . Maybe we also foresaw the threat of proliferation of divisions, and dreaded it. You must remember that 50 years ago a psychologist was a psychologist, and many of us to this day resist and even resent the subdivisions within our departments that virtually require us to choose to "belong" to one or another.

Related to this issue was a second one: political effectiveness. Verplanck (1992) pointed out that the amalgamation of the APA and the AAAP to form the new APA with its division structure was effected when most of the experimental psychologists were engaged in the war effort and not attending to APA activities. It was only after they returned to the academic environment that they could carefully examine the arrangements that had been made and the implications for experimental, comparative, and physiological psychology. Although some experimental psychologists, such as Edwin G. Boring and Robert M. Yerkes, who had engineered the formation of the new APA, believed that they had provided an organization that would ensure control by academic psychologists, clinical interests already were growing and there was a feeling that one strong division in the APA might be more effective for experimentalists than two weak ones.

Probably a third reason for the amalgamation was the slow growth of Division 6. One membership list in the APA archives dated 1946 shows just 72 members. A list dated October 20, 1947, shows 89 fellows, 17 associates, and 2 affiliates. The 1948 *APA Directory* shows just 88 fellows (members) and 15 associates. As noted earlier, a small division could be strong. However, a certain critical mass was necessary; there were grounds for questioning the need for a separate entity.

Verplanck (1992) recalled that the 1948 business meetings of Divisions 3 and 6 were held at the same time, after dinner, in two nearby rooms of Memorial Hall at Harvard University. Many of the participants belonged to both Divisions 3 and 6. There was a continual flow of senior members back and forth between the two meetings as negotiations progressed. Ver-

planck noted, "These were very exciting, noisy, 'fun' meetings, with lots of heat, excitement, and suspense, all hanging on the outcome of separate votes of the two Divisions." The resulting decision was for amalgamation.

Physiological and comparative psychology remained a part of the APA during the period from 1948 to 1963. However, their locus was generally within Division 3. Comparative and physiological psychologists held office in Division 3 and many programs in physiological and comparative psychology were sponsored under the aegis of Division 3. However, Division 6 as a separate unit died in 1948. There is no Division 6 listing in the 1949 *APA Directory*.

### REESTABLISHMENT OF DIVISION 6

Historians of our era tend to attribute greater importance in the determination of historical events to the Zeitgeist rather than individual effort. Surely, the Zeitgeist was important in the rebirth of Division 6. By the 1960s, physiological psychology had become a viable entity and comparative psychology, benefiting from both internal strength and interactions with European ethologists, also showed appreciable development. The fields had changed much since the 1940s.

It is a mistake, however, to underestimate the role of individual effort, in this case that of Sidney Weinstein, then of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. There was a feeling among some physiological and comparative psychologists that Division 3 was not fulfilling their needs adequately. Weinstein (1981) recalled that

The idea to start a physiological division occurred when Herb Birch and I had papers (which we both thought were of excellent quality) rejected by Division 3! We felt, and obviously we were in good company, that Division 3 had left physiological to wither away.

On December 22, 1960, Weinstein sent a petition to various colleagues, noting that a total of about 200 signatures, or 1% of the APA membership, would be required for action to be taken. A notice of the effort was carried in the 1961 *American Psychologist* (Notes and News, 1961) with the note that some 130 APA members already had signed the petition. It was the APA administrative associate, Jane Hildreth (1960), who suggested to Weinstein that the effort might be tied to the old Division 6.

The replies were mixed. Some respondents, such as Irwin Bernstein, Gilbert Gottlieb, Frederick King, and Brenda Milner, supported the effort (according to letters in the Division 6 archives). Others continued to oppose a splintering of the amalgamated Division 3.

Weinstein persisted with his efforts and eventually presided at an organizational meeting of physiological and comparative psychologists that was held at the APA meeting in New York on September 5, 1961 (Wilson, 1961). After considerable discussion among different factions concerning the shape that the proposed division should take, a move for harmony of interests between physiological and comparative psychologists was led by Helen Mahut, Freda Reblsky, and Jonathan Wegener, and it appears to have carried the day. John Lacey proposed the name of *The Division of Psychobiology* as a solution to the semantic differences, but Hans-Lukas Teuber pointed to Adolf Meyer's use of that term and felt that the name would be inappropriate (for a discussion of this and other uses of *psychobiology*, see Dewsbury, 1991). A straw vote was taken, and the decision was made to accept the name *The Division of Physiological and Comparative Psychology*. A committee, composed of Weinstein, Lacey, and Reblsky, drew up bylaws, or more correctly, adopted the bylaws of Division 3 with minor modifications as appropriate.

All was in place to petition the APA for formal acceptance of the new division. This came in the form of a cover letter from Weinstein to APA President Paul Meehl (Weinstein, 1962). In arguing for the petition, Weinstein noted that (a) this was a major interest group in the APA and there had been a prior APA Division 6; (b) 339 members (1.9% of the APA membership), 51% of whom belonged to no other division, were petitioning, (c) officers had been elected; and (d) bylaws had been adopted.

APA Executive Officer John Darley (1962) reported on June 13 that the Board of Directors had reviewed the petition and transmitted it to the Council of Representatives for consideration with a favorable recommendation. The vote would take place at the council meeting of September 4 in St. Louis. It is difficult to piece together the exact events occurring at the council meeting. The proposal was controversial. A substantial portion of the APA membership opposed the proliferation of divisions and still saw no need to split off physiological and comparative psychology from experimental psychology. Donald Hebb delivered a heated presentation in opposition to the founding of a new Division 6. Neal Miller questioned whether the new division might weaken Division 3. Weinstein recalled having to wake up Harry Harlow to get him to come to the council meeting to vote for the division. As another instance of the applied versus basic science conflict, Robert Holt questioned whether the proposal for a new division might not be a ploy to weaken the clinical divisions. When he realized that the opposition was coming from other experimentalists rather than clinicians, he was satisfied with the sincerity of the petitioners and voted in their favor. The vote was favorable and the new division was established (Newman, 1962). Later, Weinstein (1990) reflected "it is interesting that we may owe our existence, despite the opposition of our

current confederates (Division 3), to the consequent support by the clinicians!”

The division was reborn and was on its way. A new chair of the election committee was chosen, Harold Wilensky. A membership committee, composed of Weinstein, Harlow, J. McV. Hunt, Nathan Shock, and H. L. Teuber, was established. The new program committee included Weinstein, David Raab, John Stamm, Walter Essman, and John Lacey. The march toward APA bureaucracy had begun.

## MEMBERSHIP

Division 6 has always been among the smaller of the APA divisions; membership problems have often been focal. Recall that in the original 1946 poll on division structure, just 172 individuals indicated an interest in joining the division, making it the third smallest of the 19 proposed divisions. The 1948 *APA Directory* shows a total membership of just 108, including associates and affiliates. At the time of the petition to reestablish Division 6, there were 339 members.

By way of clarification, it should be noted that the 1945 APA bylaws included three membership categories: fellows, associates, and affiliates. There were no “regular” members between 1946 and 1957. Fellows were holders of the PhD with published research or acceptable experience. Associates generally had a minimum of 2 years of graduate work. Affiliates generally were either nonqualifying graduate or undergraduate students or members of the division who did not belong to the APA. Fellows and associates could serve on various committees and hold office.

The number of Division 6 members for 1948 to 1994 is shown in Table 2. The early pattern was generally one of gradual growth, with occasional plateaus and a slight dip in membership in the mid-1970s. Membership peaked at 821 in 1988 and has shown a disturbing decrease since that year.

Comparing Division 6 membership changes to those of the APA at large reveals an interesting perspective on membership. If one considers the Division 6 membership as a proportion of the total APA membership, the pattern is one of steady and inexorable decline (see Figure 2). The peak year for Division 6 membership as a percentage of the APA (1.98%) was in 1963, the year the division was reestablished. In 1991, this figure dipped below 1% (0.96%) for the first time. Although the cause of the dip during the 1970s is not immediately apparent, the recent decline in membership correlates with the APA membership’s rejection of proposals for reorganization and the resulting formation of the American Psychological Society (APS) in 1988. The 1984 increase in membership resulted from

TABLE 2  
Membership in Division 6 and the APA as a Whole

Year	Division 6 N	APA N	Division 6 as Percentage of APA
1948	103	5,047	2.04
1963	415	20,933	1.98
1964	415	22,119	1.88
1965	442	23,561	1.88
1966	466	24,473	1.90
1967	495	25,800	1.92
1968	519	27,250	1.90
1969	562	28,785	1.95
1970	583	30,839	1.89
1971	602	31,985	1.88
1972	623	33,629	1.85
1973	647	35,254	1.84
1974	645	37,000	1.74
1975	626	39,411	1.59
1976	641	42,028	1.53
1977	614	44,650	1.38
1978	621	46,891	1.32
1979	705	49,047	1.44
1980	751	50,933	1.47
1981	751	52,440	1.43
1982	747	54,282	1.38
1983	751	56,402	1.33
1984	791	58,222	1.36
1985	794	60,131	1.32
1986	806	63,146	1.28
1987	801	65,144	1.23
1988	821	66,996	1.23
1989	788	68,321	1.15
1990	757	70,266	1.08
1991	693	72,202	0.96
1992	678	72,644	0.93
1993	656	73,263	0.90
1994	632	76,008	0.83
1995	610	79,098	0.77

the effort of Herbert Lansdell and Allan Mirsky to recruit members from Division 40 (Clinical Neuropsychology). Perhaps the major problem for Division 6 is that most physiological and comparative psychologists now find their professional affiliations in organizations other than the APA, especially the Society for Neuroscience and the Animal Behavior Society.

The membership decline has many implications for the division. For example, in the annual voting for apportionment in the APA Council of Representatives, a division must receive a minimum of 0.5% of the votes cast to retain even one seat on council. For 1992, Division 6 received .56%, thus barely retaining its seat (Composition of the Council of Rep-



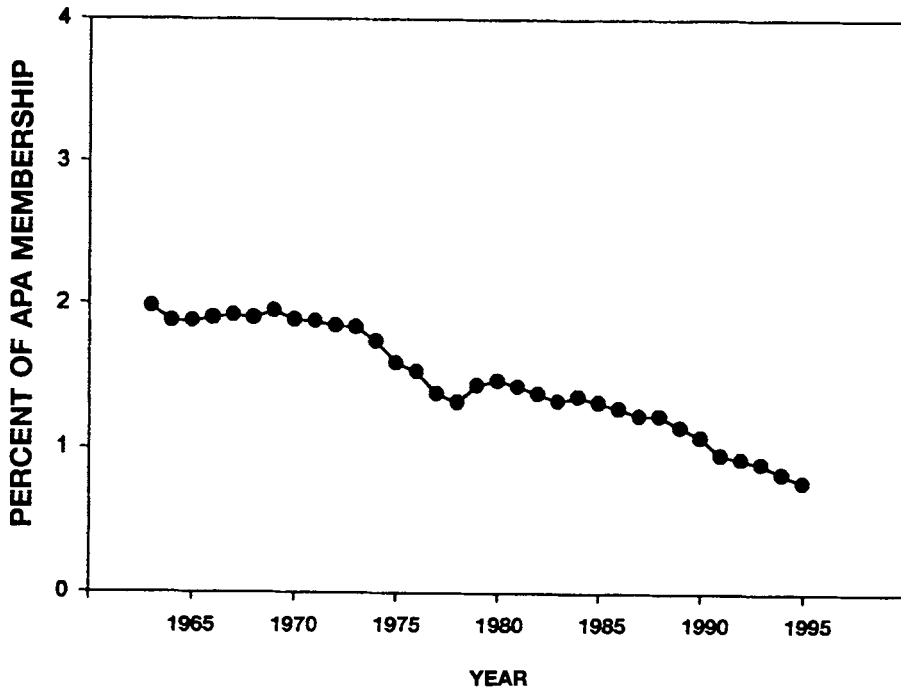


Figure 2. Division 6 Membership as a Percentage of APA Membership, 1963-1995.

representatives, 1991). By 1995, Division 6 finally lost its seat on the council and was without representation for the first time in its history.

Various membership drives met with limited success. At the 1970 business meeting in Miami Beach, for example, John Stern, of Washington University, St. Louis, concluded that the gain in membership stemming from a recent drive did not justify the expense of the drive.

An unpublished 1985 study of division membership showed it to be 85% male and almost all White. The modal ages were from the 40 to 44 and 45 to 49 groups. In terms of geography, the Middle Atlantic region had the most members with 23%. In addition, 28% of the members reported research in physiological psychology as their current major field; 19% listed experimental psychology; 9% listed psychobiology/neuropsychology; just 4.4% listed comparative psychology. Finally, 10% of the membership was doing clinical work in the health service provider area.

## BYLAWS

I have located no written record of bylaws for Division 6 in the 1940s. The original bylaws of the division when it was reactivated in 1963 were

simply composed of the Division 3 bylaws with the term *physiological and comparative* substituted for *experimental* and a few other comparable changes. The original copy of Division 3 bylaws, with the changes penciled in, survives in the division archives. A certain conservatism in treatment of the bylaws is revealed by the fact that the 1962 and 1991 versions of the bylaws contain articles that are quite similar; also, both use the same major headings: name and purpose, membership, officers, executive committee, nominations and elections, meetings, committees, dues, and amendments.

Although the bylaws have been amended numerous times over the years, for the most part these relatively minor changes have been made to facilitate the day-to-day operations of the division. They typically involve modifications in the manner of appointment or terms of officers or committee members and the procedures for selecting members and fellows.

Perhaps the most sweeping changes are the most recent—those adopted in 1991. A new category of student affiliates was added to the article on membership and a new position was established for a historian/archivist. The positions of newsletter editor and historian/archivist were defined within the article dealing with officers (Article 3, Section 1), although they are not division officers. However, the executive committee was redefined to include “the Division President, Division Past-President, Division President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, Division Representative(s) to Council, Chairperson of the Program Committee, Chairperson of the Membership Committee, Newsletter Editor, Division Historian/Archivist, and additional Members-at-Large to make up twelve members of the Committee” (as explained in the 1991 bylaws). What is especially significant is that, for the first time, individuals were to be selected to serve as voting members of the executive committee who were not elected by the membership at large but rather were appointed by members of the committee on which they will serve. The philosophy was that those who are doing the work of the division should have the privilege of the vote in the division’s executive committee meetings. This represents a reversal of the long-standing policy that voting members of the executive committee ought to be members elected by the general division membership.

## FELLOWS

As previously noted, in its initial years Division 6 offered just two categories of membership: fellow and associate. The status of a fellow during those years was closer to that of a member in more recent years.

By the time Division 6 was reestablished, a fellow in the APA had become more of an honorary designation. The 1962 bylaws of new division specified that

Fellows of the Division shall be persons who have been elected Fellows by the American Psychological Association and who in addition satisfy the following requirements: (a) five years of experience in physiological or comparative psychology subsequent to the doctor's degree, (b) publication of significant contributions in the field of physiological or comparative psychology in addition to research carried out for the doctor's degree, and (c) actively engaged in research. The election of Fellows to the Division shall be upon nomination by the Executive Committee and by a majority vote of the Fellows attending the annual business meeting.

This basic statement has been retained for 30 years. However, procedures used in obtaining nominations and conducting elections have changed from time to time, as when the procedures were clarified and streamlined in 1987. It is difficult to obtain complete data regarding fellows. The division had 55 fellows in 1965. This number grew and peaked in 1989, when there were 237 active fellows.

In trying to reconstruct a complete list of all members elected as Division 6 fellows, I have located the names of the 318 individuals. As there were 230 fellows in 1991, this suggests that 88 fellows are no longer active in Division 6 because of either death or resignation.

## OFFICERS

The elected officers of Division 6 include the president, representatives to the APA Council of Representatives when appropriate, and members-at-large of the Executive Committee. In practice, much of the day-to-day work of maintaining the division falls on the secretary-treasurer, an appointed office.

A list of the Division 6 presidents is presented in Table 3. By my calculations, the division has elected 34 presidents. Several cases are difficult to classify, however. Donald G. Marquis was a temporary chair, and Donald B. Lindsley and Clifford T. Morgan served as president prior to the merger with Division 3. It is my understanding that Frank A. Beach was elected president by Division 6, but served as copresident of Division 3 after the merger (as he was elected by Division 6). The portrait of Beach appearing in the 1949 *American Psychologist* (Beach, 1949) included the caption "President, Division of Physiological and Comparative Psychology"; I thus include him in the list. However, his presidential address was listed in the APA convention program as being under the auspices of Division 3, and as copresident he chaired the Division 3 business meeting. W. J. Brogden served as a copresident of Division 3 during 1949 to 1950 and may or may not have been elected through Division 6; I have not

TABLE 3  
Presidents of Division 6

Year	President
1945–1946	Donald G. Marquis (chair)
1946–1947	Donald B. Lindsley
1947–1948	Clifford T. Morgan
1948–1949	Frank A. Beach
1949–1963	(Division inactive)
1963–1964	Sidney Weinstein
1964–1965	Harry F. Harlow
1965–1966	Hans-Lukas Teuber
1966–1967	Austin H. Riesen
1967–1968	Karl H. Pribram
1968–1969	Mortimer Mishkin
1969–1970	John I. Lacey
1970–1971	James Olds
1971–1972	Richard F. Thompson
1972–1973	Brenda A. Milner (Daniel S. Lehrman, deceased)
1974	Brenda A. Milner
1975	Donald R. Meyer
1976	Philip Teitelbaum
1977	Elliot S. Valenstein
1978	Richard M. Held
1979	Frances Graham
1980	Byron A. Campbell
1981	Richard L. Solomon
1982	William A. Mason
1983	Alan F. Mirsky
1984	Robert W. Doty
1985	Ethel Tobach
1986	George H. Collier
1987	Martha H. Wilson
1988	Duane M. Rumbaugh
1989	Linda Bartoshuk
1990	Frederick A. King
1991	J. Bruce Overmier
1992	Russell M. Church
1993	Donald A. Dewsbury
1994	Evelyn Satinoff
1995	Bertley G. Hoebel
1996	Stewart H. Hulse

included him. Daniel S. Lehrman died before assuming office and his term was filled by president-elect Brenda A. Milner.

I have analyzed characteristics of 36 Division 6 presidents (excluding Lehrman). Of the 36, 6 have been women, the first of whom was Brenda Milner. Six received their PhDs from Yale University. Four received their PhDs from Harvard; three received their PhDs (or MD for Karl Pribram) from the University of Chicago, the University of Pennsylvania, and Brown

University. Johns Hopkins, McGill, New York University, Stanford, and Wisconsin each produced two Division 6 presidents.

The places of employment at the time of assuming the presidency were more widely distributed. Two each were from Michigan, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the National Institute of Mental Health, Princeton, Wisconsin, and Yale; 24 other institutions employed one Division 6 president each. The mean time from PhD to the presidency was 26 years, with a range of 9 to 39 years. Both Clifford Morgan and Frank Beach assumed the presidency 9 years after receiving their PhDs. The bumper crop for Division 6 presidents occurred in 1954, when five future presidents received their PhDs.

The 11 secretary-treasurers are listed in Table 4. Twenty-six individuals have served as council representatives. John Lacey, Robert Malmo, and Austin Riesen assumed office more than once. Prior to 1981, Division 6 had two representatives in every active year except 1978; it had just one representative between 1981 and 1994. A total of 59 individuals have served as members-at-large.

## PROGRAM

The Division 6 program is but a small part of the overall program for the annual APA convention. The number of hours allocated by or negotiated with the APA and other divisions for the Division 6 program has varied over the years, with 52 hours in 1974 and 17 in 1986. The response to the limited number of hours has varied over time. In 1976 and 1977, for example, the decreasing number of program hours was causing strain

TABLE 4  
Secretary-Treasurers of Division 6

Year	Secretary-Treasurer
1945-1946	R. B. Loucks
1946-1949	Harry F. Harlow
1963-1969	Frances K. Graham
1969-1971	Martha H. Wilson
1971-1974	Robert L. Isaacson
1975-1977	J. Michael Warren
1978-1980	Herbert C. Lansdell
1981-1983	Marlene Oscar-Berman
1984-1987	Mimi N. Halpern
1988-1990	William P. Smotherman
1991-1996	Karen L. Hollis

on the division's ability to accommodate members. By the late 1980s, by contrast, submissions were so few that program chairs experienced difficulty filling in even the minimal number of hours allotted. With these changes the character of the program changed, from a heavy emphasis on contributed papers to a heavier emphasis on longer, invited papers and symposia.

### **Early Years**

The 1946 meeting was the first in which division sponsorships were noted. Division 6 sponsored sessions on sensory functions, general physiological psychology, and comparative psychology. Included as speakers in the latter session were P. T. Young, W. N. Kellogg, B. F. Skinner, W. R. Garner (on symbolic processes in rats), and D. O. Hebb.

The program for the 1948 meeting was listed by division. Divisions 3 and 6 were listed together; all other divisions had separate sections. A symposium titled "Cognitive Versus Stimulus-Response Learning" included participants Ernest R. Hilgard, David Krech, Kenneth W. Spence, and Edward C. Tolman. The 1949 program listed only Division 3, but included work formerly presented under the sponsorship of Division 6, such as a session on brain functions, chaired by Donald Lindsley, and one on physiological psychology, chaired by W. D. Neff. Frank Beach's famous "The Snark Was a Boojum" paper (Beach, 1950) was presented as an address by the copresident. This pattern of including material on physiological and comparative psychology on the Division 3 program continued during the division hiatus.

In 1963, the first year after the reestablishment of the division, some 21 hours of substantive programming were offered. This total included symposia with such titles as "Properties of the Memory Trace" and "Computer Analysis of Electrical Activity of the Brain and Behavior," two sessions (4 hours) of contributed papers in comparative psychology, eight sessions (11 hours) of contributed papers in physiological psychology, plus a social hour and business meeting.

### **Types of Presentations**

The tradition of a presidential address was initiated with Donald Lindsley's talk at the 1947 meeting in Detroit. Often the speaker summarized the latest data collected in his or her laboratory.

In 1967, for the 75th anniversary of the APA, the decision was made to initiate a series of invited addresses. Initially these addresses were by individuals from outside of psychology but whose work had important implications for physiological or comparative psychology. Speakers invited by Division 6 in the early years of the program included David Hubel, Jerzy

Rose, Theodore Bullock, Vernon Mountcastle, Walle Nauta, Norman Geschwind, Edward Evarts, John Eccles, and Seymour Kety. Later, the number of invited addresses was expanded and Division 6 members, as well as nonmembers, were invited to present invited addresses, generally 50 minutes in duration. This may have peaked in 1983 when 10 invited addresses were given.

The Hebb–Olds Lecture speaker series, initiated in 1990, was an annual talk cosponsored by Divisions 6 and 2 (Teaching of Psychology). It was intended to help undergraduate instructors deal with the complexities of modern psychobiology. The first two speakers were Donald Dewsbury in 1990 and Neil Carlson in 1991.

In 1967, the division instituted the new policy of inviting newly elected fellows of the division to present invited talks; these have generally been of 20 to 35 minutes duration. In the inaugural year, Mark Rosenzweig, Roger Russell, Roger Sperry, William Grings, Conan Kornetsky, William Utall, John Flynn, Howard Moltz, and James Olds presented talks. In subsequent years a range of about 2 to 12 talks per year were presented as part of this program.

The traditional mode of presenting research results has been through contributed papers to be presented orally at the meeting. These have generally been refereed by a committee, with some papers rejected. This mode dominated the earlier Division 6 programs. For the 1968 meeting in San Francisco 100 such papers were submitted; 69 such papers were presented at the 1964 and 1976 meetings. However, interest in spoken papers has changed over the years. With the advent of poster sessions, oral papers became less important. For a while, they were completely eliminated from the program. They were reinstated in 1983 and have been on and off the program in subsequent years.

In 1978, following the successful use of poster sessions by other societies, the APA instituted a program of poster sessions. This became the major mode for contributed presentations to Division 6. There were 23 posters in 1983; in 1989, there were 8 posters and no oral presentations.

Many outstanding symposia have been presented over the years. Heinrich Klüver chaired a 1965 symposium titled “The Visual System of Nonmammalian Vertebrates” with William Hodos, David Ingle, Harvey Karten, and Nancy Mello. A 1967 symposium titled “Inferotemporal Cortex and Visual Discrimination” featured some of the regulars who kept Division 6 alive: Brenda Milner, Mortimer Mishkin, John Stamm, Karl Pribram, Charles Gross, Martha Wilson, and Charles Butter. A 1979 centennial symposium titled “Psychology and the Neurosciences” featured Donald Lindsley, John Lacey, and Karl Pribram. One titled “Development of Structural Sex Differences in the Brain” in 1981 included Masakazu Konishi, Roger Gorski, and Arthur Arnold.

## Other Highlights

Various professional issues have been addressed. A 1975 historical panel, organized under the heading "Division 6 in Its Second Decade: Retrospective and Prospective Comments by Past Presidents," was held in 1975. Chaired by William Taylor, participants listed were Sidney Weinstein, Harry Harlow, Hans-Lukas Teuber, Austin Riesen, Karl Pribram, Mortimer Mishkin, John Lacey, James Olds, Richard Thompson, Brenda Milner, and Donald Meyer. A 1978 discussion hour was chaired by Frances Graham and addressed the "Place of Division 6 in APA." A discussion session in 1981 dealt with "The Role of the *Journal of Comparative and Physiological Psychology*." The status of comparative psychology has been analyzed and reanalyzed at Division 6 sessions. A 1972 symposium in Honolulu titled "Comparative Psychology at Issue" was cosponsored by the New York Academy of Sciences and featured Leonore Adler, Howard Moltz, Karl Pribram, H. P. Zeigler, Donald Dewsbury, Robert Lockard, Ethel Tobach, and Helmut Adler. The status and role of physiological psychology have been addressed on various occasions as well. In 1982, Philip Teitelbaum addressed the issue "Is Physiological Psychology Dying?" A symposium titled "Future of Physiological Psychology: Reasons for Optimism and Concern," held in 1986, included Mark Rosenzweig, Mortimer Mishkin, Hasker Davis, Richard Thompson, Neal Miller, Larry Squier, and George Collier (see Davis, Rosenzweig, Becker, & Sather, 1988).

Various sessions have addressed social issues. Perhaps a sign of the times was a set of three sessions labeled "Open Workshop on Peace Action" in 1971, which were chaired by B. G. Hoebel, C. Gross, and C. M. Butter. An open meeting of the Division 6 Committee on Social Responsibility, chaired by Charles M. Butter, was held in 1974. A 1984 symposium titled "The Comparative Psychology of Warfare" featured Ethel Tobach, John Paul Scott, Michael Hammond, and Metta Spencer.

Ethical issues were addressed on various occasions. The 1975 program included a session on "Ethical Issues in Neuroscience," with Charles Gross, Allan Mirsky, Edward Katkin, Elliot Valenstein, Judith Stern, and Stephen Chorover. A session on "Ethics and Animal Experimentation" appeared in 1978 with Austin Riesen, Robert Doty, Charles Gallistel, John Flowers, and Lester Aronson participating. In 1983, Division 6 sponsored a talk by Edward Taub titled "Tactics for Laboratory Attacks by Antivivisectionists: Can Anything Be Done?" Division 6 has cosponsored various other sessions on the ethics of animal research over the years.

## THE D. O. HEBB AWARD

At its 1981 meeting, the Executive Committee decided to initiate an annual award to be named in honor of Donald O. Hebb. As originally



conceived, the award was to be given for the best poster abstract submitted by someone who is within 5 years of receiving a doctorate. The award would be accompanied by a \$100 check.

Donald Hebb made numerous seminal contributions to the fields of physiological and comparative psychology and was a mentor of many Division 6 members. It is fitting that the award was named in his honor. However, one cannot escape the irony that it was Hebb who fought the reestablishment of the division.

The older statement was later modified, perhaps informally, so that by 1990 the award could be earned for either a poster or a platform session. The award is not made every year but only when merited.

The committee declined to present an award in 1982, the first year of its operation. The first winner was Michael Fanselow in 1983. As best I can tell, there have been only three subsequent winners: Edward J. Holmes, Michael J. Renner, and April Ronca.

## NEWSLETTERS

The members of Division 6 decided to start a small newsletter in 1979. Herbert C. Lansdell was chosen to be the founding editor. He was succeeded by James Kalat and Ernest Maples in 1985, Christina L. Williams and Warren H. Meck in 1991, Katarina Borer in 1994, and Herbert L. Roitblat in 1996.

In 1978 the membership was polled regarding the need for a newsletter and the vote was in the affirmative by a margin of 108 to 13. The first issue of the *Physiological & Comparative Newsletter* appeared in December 1979 and consisted of just two pages, including a brief summary of events leading up to its founding and a "President's Corner" column by Byron A. Campbell. There appear to have been 10 numbered issues published in this series, which ran from 1979 to 1984. The issues typically included a "President's Corner," information on the convention program, proposed bylaws amendments, and assorted announcements of interest to members.

In 1985, during the presidency of Ethel Tobach, the division members expanded the newsletter, with Kalat and Maples serving as coeditors. The numbering of the newsletter, now called *The Physiological and Comparative Psychologist*, was reinitialized, with the May 1985 issue bearing the designation of Volume 1, Number 1. That issue indicated that such items as job opportunities and available postdoctoral positions could be announced in the newsletter. The issue contained 31 pages, including the abstracts of papers to be presented at the 1985 APA convention. It appears that just two issues were published in 1985, and three issues per year were targeted beginning in 1986. Only two issues were published in 1988 and 1991, and

one was published in 1989. This was a period of financial difficulty for the division.

## CONTROVERSIES

As might be expected, various controversies have arisen in the division over the years of its existence. Most often these have centered around the rights of scientists to conduct and present research in controversial areas.

### **Wheeler on Parapsychology**

A controversy within the Executive Committee began when John A. Wheeler of the University of Texas participated in a symposium at the 1979 AAAS meetings in Houston dealing primarily with parapsychology. He took a strong stand against parapsychology and advocated "that the AAAS disaffiliate the Parapsychological Association" (Wheeler, 1979). Division 6 Secretary-Treasurer Herbert Lansdell circulated a memorandum on January 10, 1979, requesting authorization to send a letter to *Science* magazine stating "The Executive Committee of the Division of Physiological and Comparative Psychology of the American Psychological Association wishes to express support for John Wheeler's position regarding parapsychology" (Lansdell, 1979).

Lansdell's proposal met with mixed responses. Several members supported the effort. Others advised caution. William Mason was particularly cautious and indicated that he would abstain from any vote. Although he shared Wheeler's reservations about the validity of the claims from parapsychologists, Mason (1979) indicated that his "chief concern is that Division 6 not adopt a position that could be viewed as an attempt to censure and control research which at the moment happens to be unpopular and outside its current Zeitgeist." As best I can determine, no letter was ever sent.

### **Thiessen on Rape**

One of the most widely publicized controversies from Division 6 centered on an invited fellows address given by Delbert Thiessen at the 1983 meeting in Anaheim, California. A discussion of this controversy from the perspective of the critics can be found in the book edited by Sunday and Tobach (1985). In addition, some of the correspondence among Thiessen, Miller, and correspondents is reprinted there (Sunday & Tobach, 1985).

In response to an invitation from Program Chair David Miller, Thiessen submitted the title "Rape as a Reproductive Strategy: Our Evolutionary

Legacy." Thiessen interpreted the literature on forced copulations (rape) as being most common in nonhuman animal species with polygynous mating systems and in human societies with polygynous systems. He reflected that "it became apparent that at least some forms of rape could be viewed as alternative reproductive strategies among males who lacked the resources and potential to make themselves attractive to females" (Thiessen, 1990).

Publication of the title provoked a series of letters of protest from various people to Miller and Division 6 President Allan Mirsky. More controversy was apparent at the paper's presentation.

The issues are complicated and different critics focused on different aspects of the problem. Much of the criticism centered about Thiessen's title, which some felt was sensationalistic. Others were concerned that the proposition that there might be an evolutionary background to rape might imply a condoning of rape as an adaptive strategy with genetic routes (the so-called naturalistic fallacy). Accusations of genetic determinism were made.

Marlene Oscar-Berman chaired the session at which Thiessen's paper was given. In introducing Thiessen and his talk, she indicated that there would be a question-and-answer period after the talk, during which the Association of Women in Psychology would read a brief prepared statement. Linda Garnets, a Los Angeles therapist, made brief remarks supporting Thiessen's right to investigate the problem but condemning the alleged "inflammatory way he exploits women" (Cunningham, 1985). However one may feel about the controversy, it was extraordinary in that for the only time in the history of the fellows addresses, the session chair announced that there would be a rebuttal to a talk that had yet to be presented and that was available by title only.

Although other issues were intertwined, the clash seemed to be primarily between two sets of values. On the one hand, there was concern about the social implications of the talk and the appearance that the attribution of a genetic influence might imply a justification of rape. On the other hand, there was a belief that all aspects of human behavior should be open to investigation and that if there are, indeed, evolutionary foundations for such behavior, rape might be better understood and thereby decreased by understanding them than by suppressing relevant information.

### **Rushton on Race**

In December 1989, J. Philippe Rushton of the University of Western Ontario submitted a paper for presentation at the 1990 meeting titled "Towards a Theory of Human Racial Group Differences." This submission presented some difficult problems for the program committee, whose members had serious reservations about Rushton's conclusions. At the same time, however, there was support for the right of a scientist to present the results

of his or her research, no matter how controversial they might be. After an initial rejection, Rushton softened the title to "New Data on r/K Selection and Race" and changed some of the content. The revised paper was accepted for presentation, where it received a very negative reception. The principle of permitting a scientist to present controversial results, subject to critical examination, was affirmed.

## **Animal Research**

It will come as no surprise that Division 6 has been involved in the controversies concerning animal research that have mushroomed during its existence. As might be expected, there has been relatively little disagreement within this division over the value of animal research. Because other units within the APA have been especially concerned with these issues, however, the involvement of Division 6 has been relatively minor. As noted earlier, various sessions on the program have addressed issues of the use of animals in research. Relevant issues have been raised in various executive committee and business meetings and in correspondence.

The most visible attack on a psychologist conducting animal research was that on Edward Taub; Taub's laboratory at the Institute for Behavioral Research was infiltrated by animal rights activist Alex Pacheco and in order to shut down Taub's research the police raided the laboratory on September 11, 1981. In 1984, Division 6 contributed \$1,000, a considerable portion of its budget, to the Biomedical Research Defense Fund to help defray the legal costs that Taub had incurred in his defense.

A minor controversy arose in 1984 when Emmanuel Bernstein of the Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals submitted a proposal to Division 6 for a symposium titled "Ways to Minimize Pain and Suffering for Laboratory Animals." Program Chair James Kalat polled the officers and committee members of the division regarding the proposal. Only 1 of the 18 respondents flatly opposed sponsoring the proposal, but many others expressed reservations. APA President Janet Spence was able to secure program time from Divisions 1 (General) and 2 (Teaching), so the problem became moot, though Division 6 and others cosponsored the symposium.

## **Psychosurgery**

The most acrimonious controversy to break out in Division 6 surrounded the issue of psychosurgery (see Pickren, 1992). In 1974, the division's Committee on Social Responsibility established a 17-member subcommittee to examine psychosurgery, chaired by Herbert Lansdell, with the goal of producing a position paper that would be approved by the Division 6 membership and forwarded to various other societies for consideration.

Lansdell circulated draft statements to the subcommittee and other scientists and produced a revised version in March 1975. In it the committee specified conditions under which psychosurgery might be appropriate and stressed the importance of psychological tests in assessing the outcomes of such treatments. Employment of contemporary assessment methods would be critical. They warned of the possible misuse of psychosurgical techniques and of the difficult ethical problems involved. In letters written to Division 6 Secretary–Treasurer J. M. Warren and President Donald R. Meyer dated January 1975, Suzanne H. Corkin of the Department of Psychology at MIT and a member of the subcommittee objected to the draft statement, arguing that it might be read as indicating that the APA supported psychosurgery. After various negotiations, the decision was made to circulate both versions of the draft statement to the membership.

Lansdell circulated draft statements to the subcommittee and other scientists and produced a revised version in March 1975 that provoked much controversy. This decision elicited several protests, including a letter from Stephen Chorover of MIT to President Donald Meyer, under whose signature the ballot was distributed. Chorover felt that the ballot was presented in a manner that was prejudicial in favor of the committee's draft version over the alternative. In a letter of April 23, 1975, Meyer wrote that he felt sufficiently disturbed by criticisms of his handling of the matter and the time he had to spend in dealing with it that he decided to resign as a Division 6 fellow and, as a consequence, as Division 6 president—the only such resignation in the division's history.

The results of the ballot were inconclusive and it was decided that no majority view could be presented as the view of the Division 6 membership. In addition, it was concluded that the committee and subcommittee were both constituted via procedures that violated the division bylaws and hence their deliberations were invalid. Although President Meyer was persuaded to present his presidential address as scheduled, President-Elect Philip Teitelbaum succeeded Meyer and presided at the 1975 meeting.

## COMMITTEES

In addition to an executive committee, the division bylaws initially mandated a membership committee and a program committee. The former was generally responsible for the recruitment and selection of members and selection of fellows. These two functions were divorced in 1995 when a separate membership and growth committee and a fellows nomination committee were established. A program committee was responsible for assembling the program for the annual convention. A nominations committee, responsible for developing nominations for annual elections, was added in 1964.

Various special committees have been established as the needs have arisen. Among the special committees have been the Committee on Social Responsibility, the Committee on Psychosurgery, the Committee on the History of Division 6, the Committee on the Status of Physiological Psychology, and the Committee on Animal Research.

## FINANCES

The Division 6 budget has always been small. Further, the accumulated sum in the treasury has either been small or has shown a deficit. Changes in dues and assessments must be approved by majority vote at the annual meeting (Article VIII, Section 1, of the bylaws). A special assessment of \$2 per year was approved at the 1977 business meeting and was continued for some time. This was later raised to \$5 per year. The assessment was raised to \$9 per year at the 1989 business meeting in an effort to help the division out of a difficult budget situation.

## ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS

The Executive Committee and business meeting act on many issues that do not fit neat categories. A few residual issues may be of interest. From time to time, division members considered broad social issues. For example, at the 1968 business meeting, the division approved a recommendation that the annual convention be moved from Chicago, in the wake of the Chicago Police Department's handling of protests at the Democratic National Convention. At the same meeting, Division 6 endorsed a principle calling for the division to become involved in social issues such as militarism, race, and poverty. The next year, the division approved a resolution that opposed the use of security clearance as a criterion for being awarded an appointment to study sections. In 1975, the Executive Committee voted to appoint a liaison to the Committee on Women in Psychology and to contribute \$100 to the Association for the Advancement of Psychology, but it declined to support a suggestion from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues favoring graduated dues.

## CONCLUSION

Physiological and comparative psychologists should be proud of the history of their division. The heritage of Division 6 is laced with the efforts of some of the most important workers in these fields from the past half

century. The programs sponsored by Division 6 have been exemplary. As with all such groups, one can find blemishes. However, Division 6 has generally been an effective and congenial academic group that has worked effectively to promote mutual interests.

That is the good news. The bad news concerns the current status of the division. The 1995 membership was 610 in a 79,000-member organization, and it is in a general declining pattern. Fewer than 1 in 100 APA members belongs to Division 6. According to APA bylaws, divisions can be dissolved when the membership reaches below 0.5% of APA membership. Although Division 6 has not yet reached that point, the APA is growing and Division 6 is shrinking, and it is not inconceivable that membership could drop below the minimum in a few years. Division 6 lost its council seat in 1995, a sign of the division's declining influence in the APA.

There are many reasons for this decline. In general, there is a perception among many that the APA is irrelevant to the concerns of physiological and comparative psychologists and to academic psychologists in general. The feeling is that the Society for Neuroscience, the Animal Behavior Society, the APS, the Psychonomic Society, or other organizations have usurped the position formerly held by the APA (e.g., Davis et al., 1988). This is unfortunate because there is much, such as effective lobbying and the publication of journals, that the APA does very well and that serves the constituency of Division 6 quite effectively.

In the 1990s, in an effort to make the division more appealing to its membership and others working in the field, Division 6 considered and debated a change of name. At the 1995 APA convention in New York, the name Division of Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology was adopted. Whether the name change has any substantive effect on the course of the division's history remains to be seen.

The outlook for Division 6, and for a place for physiological and comparative psychology within American psychology, will not be bright if current trends continue. It is not inconceivable that another amalgamation of Division 6 into Division 3 or another unit may be in the offing. However, whereas the first amalgamation appears motivated by a perceived unity of effort, a second one would be the result of declining interest. Change more substantial than a renaming, perhaps a new organizational structure or the personal efforts of an exceptional leader, may be necessary lest history repeat itself and Division 6 once again disappears from the APA roster. If physiological and comparative psychology continue to decrease contact with psychology at large, and if psychology at large loses physiological and comparative psychology to other disciplines, both will suffer.

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<sup>1</sup>Some sources are listed as being from Division 6 archives. These materials were collected from various officers and currently are in the possession of the author. The intention is to deposit them in an appropriate archive, probably either the Archives of the History of American Psychology in Akron, Ohio, or the American Psychological Association Archives, currently at the Library of Congress in the James Madison Building in Washington, DC.



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