

# **The Behavioural Neuroscience Program: Where no researcher has gone before!!**

Guylaine Boulanger Chellew  
MSc DEVE in completion, MSW, BSc (neuro), BA (psyc)

**Source:** Chellew, G.B. (2004). The Behavioural Neuroscience Program: Where no researcher has gone before!! *Psynopsis: Canada's Psychology Newspaper*, 26(1), 22.

The Behavioural Neuroscience Program offers undergraduates and graduate students in the Master's of Human Development and Social Work the opportunity to expand their horizons and explore areas where no research has gone before! The laboratories are located in the Science 1 building at Laurentian University Sudbury, Ontario, Canada approximately 400 km North of Toronto.

A bit about the program:

Dr M.A. Persinger, full professor, coordinator of the Behavioural Neuroscience Program is a world renowned Neuroscientist, Clinical Neuropsychologist, Consultant and expert in Multivariate Design. The Neuroscience Research Group has students from various backgrounds including the graduate programs in Biology, Human Development and undergraduate Behavioural Neuroscience and Psychology programs.

Dr. Persinger encourages students to pursue every possible hypothesis and avenue that emerges in research. His openness to new and innovative ideas, creativity, love for teaching, and supportive attitude towards a students' dreams and interests have given the program an excellent track record of student successes in terms of publications, awards, fundings from granting agencies, and preparedness for medical school, graduate and doctoral studies in a diversity of discipline like Sciences, Health Sciences,

Clinical Psychology, Social Work, and Administration.

Dr Persinger's has strong Ethical Standards, integrity, credibility in the scientific community, and an excellent reputation for the program's success and research groups. Professionals, scientists, and clients from all over the world have visited the labs. One visitor was Dr. Bill Roll a world-renowned scientist specializing in unexplained phenomena.

By their third year, students from the Behavioural Neuroscience Program and Bachelor of Science in psychology have published and are actively involved in the program as T.A.s, and researchers on a voluntary basis. Some of the research areas are: Geomagnetic Field Correlates, Bioelectric Field, Limbic Seizures, Mystical State, Consciousness, Clinical Neuropsychology, Head Injuries, Emotions, Depression, Tectonic Strain, Pain Research, Degenerative Diseases, and Neuromuscular Dystrophy research.

Dr Persinger has been presented the "Best Teacher Award" by a group of students whose lives he has touched with his academic and research advise, support, and encouragement. He is quoted as saying "a student's success and accomplishments is his success in doing his job as a teacher or educator". He makes an additional valuable contribution to research by using funding

from his practice to perform research that goes beyond available funding.

A bit about our students:

There are many students who are today successful citizens because of the Behavioural Neuroscience Program. Students from all over the country with undergraduate backgrounds in neuroscience would support that Laurentian University's Behavioural Neuroscience Program is the most comprehensive and best structured undergraduate neuroscience program in Canada.

One success story is Bruce McKay a graduate of the program at Laurentian University. He was recently awarded the Keith Cooper prize in Neuroscience at the University of Calgary for obtaining the highest mark in the Neuroanatomy and Systems Neuroscience course ever awarded in the 15-year history of this course. It is interesting to note that this mark is exactly equal to the average he obtained during his Master of Science career at Laurentian University. Recently, those marks earned him the Governor General's Gold Medal presented at Laurentian University's Spring 2002 Convocation Ceremonies in recognition of the highest graduating average of any Master's student.

Bruce McKay explains that the Behavioural Neuroscience Program coordinated by Dr M.A. Persinger at Laurentian University is the most comprehensive undergraduate neuroscience program in Canada. He enrolled into the program based on the recommendation of undergraduate and

graduate students of the program. He has authored seven scientific publications in "the area of biomagnetic field". Several of these papers are to be published shortly. He attributes much of his success with NSERC funding to his unique experience at Laurentian University.

In addition he has been awarded two Ontario Graduate Scholarships. The Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) Studentship in concert with NSERC to fund his on going studies at the University of Calgary. He has been awarded \$19,100 per year for two years for demonstrating great researcher talent. He remains as a researcher for the Behavioural Neuroscience Group at Laurentian.

Laurentian University student success in the Behavioural Neuroscience Research at the undergraduate and graduate level continues.

Visit our [website](#) for program information and the latest news on cutting-edge research. Main office (705) 675- 1151 ext. 4824 or 675-4824, Neurochemistry lab 675-4252 or email [mpersinger@laurentian.ca](mailto:mpersinger@laurentian.ca).

Mailing Address: Psychology Department, Laurentian University, Ramsey Lake Road, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, P3E 2C6. You may also contact the Psychology Department at (705) 675-4846 or 675-1151.

*Dr M.A. Persinger, Teaching Biomagnetic Effects of Behaviour*

*Bruce McKay, is working diligently with the LU Behavioural Neuroscience Research Group*