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# The Role of Neuropsychiatrists in Medical Science

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## Abstract

The re-emergence of neuropsychiatry in the twentieth century occurred in the context of a history of neuropsychiatric contributions to medical science. In parallel to the growth of neuropsychiatry as a medical specialty, psychiatry has benefitted from developments in neuroscience, many of these built upon foundations established by neuropsychiatrists. We sought to enumerate the contributions by psychiatrists with neurological training to advances in medical science.

## Methods

We searched PubMed using the terms *neuropsychiatry history*, *psychiatry* and *neurology history* and cross-referenced physicians, scientists, doctors and clinicians in psychiatry and neurology, including publications in all languages. The search was repeated in PsychINFO. We reviewed several textbooks that include neuropsychiatric history and interviewed neuropsychiatrists, behavioral neurologists, and combined neurologists/psychiatrists. From these sources, we created a database of neuropsychiatrists and their contributions.

## Results

Electronic searches yielded **165** articles for review. Using these, combined with textbooks and interviews, we identified over **50** neuropsychiatrists who made important contributions to medical science since the inception of the field of psychiatry.

## Conclusion

Physicians who have trained and/or practiced in both neurology (or neurological sciences) and psychiatry have made major contributions to medical science. Rather than solely looking to the creation of clinician scientists to push the field of psychiatry forward, there is a strong argument to be made that interdisciplinary training in neurology and psychiatry will continue to spawn advances in psychiatric understanding.

## Syndromist

**Gabriel Anton**<sup>22</sup> 1858-1933 Hydrocephalus, visual anosognosia  
**Charles Aring**<sup>23</sup> 1904-1998 Spinocerebellar degeneration  
**Karl Bonhoeffer**<sup>27</sup> 1868-1948 Exogenous vs. endogenous psychosis, aphasia  
**Sergei Korsakoff** 1853-1900 Korsakoff's psychosis  
**Silas Weir Mitchell**<sup>6</sup> 1829-1914 Causalgia (Now complex regional pain syndrome)  
**Hermann Oppenheim** 1858-1919 Tabes dorsalis, bulbar paralysis, war trauma  
**Paul Sollier**<sup>17</sup> 1861-1933 Early description of CBT, first clinical neuropsychiatrist  
**Erwin Stengel**<sup>16</sup> 1902-1973 Asymbolia for pain  
**Constantin Von Economo**<sup>14</sup> 1876-1931 Encephalitis lethargica  
**Julius Wagner-Jauregg**<sup>12</sup> 1857-1940 Malarial treatment of neurosyphilis  
**Josef Gerstmann**<sup>8</sup> 1887-1969 Gerstmann syndrome  
**George Gilles de la Tourette**<sup>3</sup> 1857-1904 la Maladie des Tics (Tourette Syndrome)  
**Otto Kauders**<sup>21</sup> 1843-1949 Mental component of encephalitis lethargica  
**Arnold Pick** 1851-1924 Pick disease, Pick bodies  
**Emil Kraepelin** 1856-1926 Manic depression, dementia praecox, psychopathic personalities, Alzheimer disease, psychiatric syndromes

## Investigator • Theorist

**Edwin Weinstein** 1911-1998 Author of "Denial of Illness"  
**Dionisio Nieto Gomez**<sup>7</sup> 1908-1985 Copper metabolism in the CNS, lithium research, psychopharmacology in Mexico  
**Smyth Ely Jelliffe**<sup>4</sup> 1866-1945 Editor, Journal of Nervous & Mental Disease; founded Psychoanalytic Review; helped establish Psychosomatic Medicine  
**Francisco J. de Echalecu** 1897-1957 Criminal psychology and the totalitarian psychological project in Spain  
**Wilhelm Griesinger** 1817-1868 Author of "Mental Pathology and Therapeutics," neurological basis of psychopathology

## Neuropathologist

**Alois Alzheimer** 1864 – 1915 Described eponymous disease and its pathology  
**Jules Gabriel Francois Baillarger**<sup>24</sup> 1809-1890 Subarachnoid hemorrhage, hypnagogic hallucinations  
**James Crichton-Browne**<sup>30</sup> 1840-1938 Brain injury and psychopathology  
**Joseph Jules Dejerine**<sup>32</sup> 1849-1917 Alexia; Treatment of war neurosis  
**Gyula Donath** 1849-1944 Anankastic (obsessive compulsive) personality disorder  
**Aleksei Kozhevnikov** 1836-1902 ALS, advocate for the mentally ill, syndromic epilepsy  
**Theodore Meynert** 1833-1892 Nucleus basalis, subcortical role in psychopathology  
**Willem Verhaart** 1889-1983 Primate brains in the Dutch East Indies  
**Ernst Wilhelm Von Brucke**<sup>15</sup> 1819-1892 Physiology of language, optics  
**Carl Wernicke**<sup>11</sup> 1848-1905 Receptive aphasia and encephalopathy  
**Arthur Schüller**<sup>18</sup> 1874-1957 Established neuroradiology  
**Paul Charles Dubois** 1848-1918 Persuasion therapy  
**Adolf Meyer** 1866-1950 First American neuropsychiatrist, established psychobiology  
**Franz Nissl** 1860-1919 Nissl stain  
**Paul Emil Flechsig** 1847-1929 Myelinogenesis

## Neuroanatomist

**Vladimir Bekhterev**<sup>25</sup> 1857-1927 Superior vestibular nucleus, central tegmental tract  
**Edouard Brissaud**<sup>28</sup> 1852-1909 Hemifacial spasm  
**Hirota Tanabe** Behavioral Disturbance in FTD  
**Johann Bernhard Aloys von Gudden**<sup>13</sup> 1824-1886 Commissure of Gudden (optic tract fibers)  
**Kurt Goldstein**<sup>9</sup> 1878-1965 TBI, organismic approach to aphasia, holistic diagnosis  
**Auguste-Henri Forel**<sup>2</sup> 1848-1931 Cofounder of the neuron theory, early work in sexology  
**Károly Schaffer**<sup>19</sup> 1864 –1939 axon projection in the hippocampus

## Educator • Advocate

**Stanley Cobb**<sup>29</sup> 1887-1968 First American Neuropsychiatry textbook  
**José Martins da Cruz Jobim**<sup>31</sup> 1802-1878 First Brazilian neuropsychiatrist, first Brazilian Psychiatry textbook  
**Abraham Myerson**<sup>20</sup> 1881-1948 Heredity and Social Environment in the Mentally Ill  
**Thomas Salmon**<sup>10</sup> 1876-1927 Advocate for refugees on Ellis Island, war veterans, leader of the mental hygiene movement  
**Albert Moore Barrett**<sup>5</sup> 1871-1936 State hospital-university partnerships  
**Christa Kohler** 1928-2004 Habilitation thesis for social psychiatry (in the GDR)

## Neurophysiologist

**Hans Berger**<sup>26</sup> 1873-1941 Inventor of the EEG  
**Ugo Cerletti** 1877-1963 Electroconvulsive therapy used in psychiatry  
**Eduard Hitzig**<sup>1</sup> 1838-1907 Electrical stimulation localizing brain function  
**Friedrich Hoffman** 1660-1742 Epileptic equivalents

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