

BCIA Board Thanks Dr. Celeste De Bease for her Leadership Dedicated Service 2002 – 2008

Dr. Celeste De Bease joined the BCIA Board in 2002, serving in diverse roles prior to being elected to the position of Chair. Her energetic, proactive, and visionary leadership of BCIA yielded many of the most impactful changes in our recent history and her hard work and passion have advanced BCIA to the forefront of our field. She has inspired our Board to ask hard questions and to challenge traditional assumptions to ensure active, informed leadership.

During her tenure with BCIA, Dr. De Bease wisely chose to update our certification model and make our requirements relevant to professional practice. One of the most profound revisions was the shift from supervision, which was built on the psychology licensure model, to the idea of mentoring which is teaching professionals how to apply clinical skills. The Pelvic Muscle Dysfunction Biofeedback (PMDB) program was developed to offer a certification to those who use biofeedback and behavioral interventions to treat incontinence and pelvic pain exclusively.

Dr. De Bease supervised a sweeping revision of the General Biofeedback and EEG Biofeedback blueprints, reading lists, and exam items. BCIA revised the two exams to ensure clinical relevance, correspondence to the new reading lists, and psychometric excellence. She emphasized the importance of service to our stakeholders. Under her leadership, BCIA completely redesigned its website, improving navigation, enabling potential clients to find certificants by zip code, and helping certificants to better market their services. She also aggressively marketed BCIA certification to graduate students and professionals, and increased dissemination of articles and newsletters to the field.

Dr. De Bease championed several new programs and will be remembered for updating and enhancing the presence of BCIA. Certification by Prior Experience (CPE) is a new path to certification for those professionals who have exceeded entry-level qualifications and seek our recognition. BCIA launched the University Initiative to promote coursework taught by regionally-accredited academic institutions and encourage the incorporation of the BCIA blueprints into university programs. Dr. De Bease has challenged BCIA to support our international partners in a joint effort to promote the training of competent biofeedback professionals. During these past two years, our field has faced many turbulent issues. Dr. De Bease provided wise counsel that allowed BCIA to rapidly intervene to protect the welfare of our certificants and the public. For example, BCIA supported the licensure of mental health counselors in New York.

For all her hard work, personal sacrifice, and so much more, we say a heartfelt "thank you."

Dr. De Bease did her undergraduate work at the University of Pennsylvania and received her PhD in Psychology in 1989 from Temple University. Her doctoral dissertation was entitled "EEG Activity During Visual Imagery" where she used THE first brain mapper. Designed by Cadwell, the Temple University Department of Psychiatry EEG lab was chosen to receive the Cadwell brain mapper for beta testing. She is a clinical assistant professor at Widener University's Institute for Graduate Clinical Psychology and the director of the on-campus biofeedback clinic. In addition, she teaches a course entitled Medical Psychophysiology which prepares graduate psychology students to incorporate mind-body into their future role as healers. Her private practice, the BioNeurofeedback Treatment Center focuses on work in the growing sub-specialty of medical psychology.

Our sincerest thanks and gratitude go out to her.