

**Mark Hallett, MD**

*President and Founder*

*Functional Neurological Disorder Society*

Founder Awardee

May 2, 2025

# Brought to you by...

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Joe Jankovic

Mark Edwards

Alfonso Fasano

Alan Carson

Jon Stone

Shilpa Chitnis

Ali Buchholz

Sanjay Pandey

David Perez

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Pritha Ghosh

Marty Bielawski

Charlie and Elise Kaufman

Hye Won Shin

Judy and Ron Milestone

Vik Khurana

Debra Ehrlich



To Dr. Mark Hallett, on the esteemed occasion of celebrating the Founder Award from the Functional Neurological Disorder Society and announcing the Mark Hallett Award and Lecture, to be given to only the most esteemed and productive members of the society that you helped create and nurture, while mentoring nearly every founding member. With greatest gratitude for all of your service and wisdom.



I consider Mark not just a valued colleague, but one of my closest friends and most enjoyable travel companion. I was honored to be included in his retirement FESTSCHRIFT on 12/12/22 at NIH during which time I had an opportunity to reflect on our long friendship with many anecdotes and reflections and paid tribute to his many accomplishments. Mark is admired by his family, friends and colleagues around the world for his kind demeanor, encyclopedic knowledge, great wisdom, sense of humor, and his boundless humanity. He is the definition of a "mensch". We share not only scientific interests but also political views. I will always remember and cherish our conversations and shared experiences (along with our respective families) in Aspen during our annual movement disorder courses. I include the photo we took during one of our Aspen adventures in August 2024. I look forward to many more encounters with Mark in the future.

Dear Mark,

It has been such a pleasure working with you and learning from you over the years. From early days reading your papers when starting my PhD with John to more recent times working with you in FNDS it has always been a pleasure and such a great example of how to lead by example. With best wishes, Mark



Dear Mark, I'm sure you don't remember the first time we met. We were at dinner in Montreal. My first words to you? "Mark, do you think I should get married?"... Not surprised at all by the question of this random person, you started considering the pros and cons of either action. You were scientific and yet very human: this is you and it's in everything you do! Your answer was perfect, as usual.

Thank you

Alfonso



Dear Mark,

I wanted to thank you for all your comradeship over the past decade. I remember well getting to know you as we started to lay out a structure for the Handbook, and if I'm honest, being a little scared and intimidated as a result of your academic reputation as one of the most cited authors in clinical neurosciences. What I didn't know back then was your 'other' reputation for kindness, humour, fun, energy, engagement and 'joie de vivre'. Engaging with the man behind the 'H' index during our time working together has been a real pleasure. I feel very proud of our work on the book, the meetings and the Society, and I have learnt so much from you along the way- it's been an education. I'm absolutely delighted the Society is recognising you and creating an award in your name. Jon has included a number of photos of that journey but I wanted to add one more from a meeting we both attended in Verona which I think really captures the energy that you bring to a room.

Very best wishes,  
Alan





Mark, you are legendary at Brigham and Women's/Harvard where I have worked since 1991, also as Neurophysiology Lab director! While I only met you 10 yrs ago, I have admired you since I was a resident. FNDS would not be in mainstream neurology if not for you. Honoring you at FND is the highlight of my career! Here are some reasons why you are special to me. You are universally respected, admired, sought after, yet are generous to all who reach out to you. You have mentored, and advocated for women, young people, persons of color. You freely offer helpful and honest advice. You have unbelievable energy travelling all around the world to meetings, making friends and colleagues wherever you go. You are brilliant, dedicated, equitable, approachable, and humble: truly someone to emulate. Congratulations on your well-deserved FNDS Founder Award and the newly created Hallett Award for our society. Your retirement from the NIH/govt was very well timed (for you). Barbara



Director, BWH  
Neurophysiology  
Laboratory, c.1978



Mark + Judy, Verona  
2024



Retires from NIH  
Dec 31, 2024



COVID 19 kept you  
virtual for Boston FNDS  
2022 -we toasted you!



You led a tour of  
Harvard Yard, FNDS  
2022



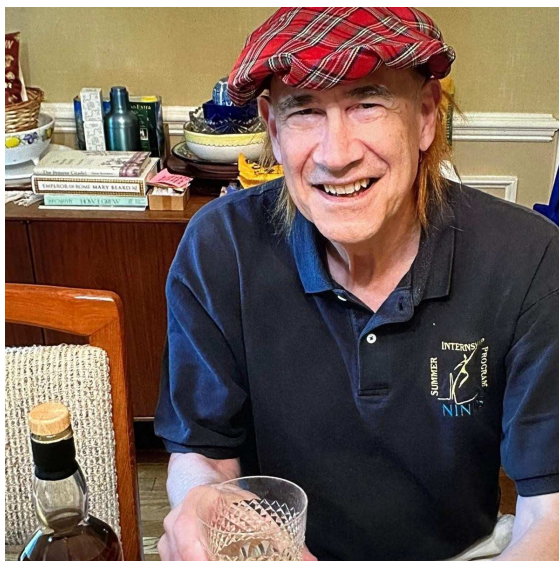
FNDS BOD on the  
steps of Harvard Hall,  
You are virtual.



FND meeting 2017 - Edinburgh.  
Scran and Scally pre-meeting dinner - where I first suggested starting FND society and that you should be the first President Mark!







Mark , thank you for your immeasurable contribution to the FND society. I dont think we would have got started without you. And it wouldnt it have grown as rapidly without your energy and commitment as first president.

Thank you as well personally for your mentorship and support in this new/old field of neurology. Jon Stone

PS I believe there is a new Scottish intern looking for a project if you know anyone. Photo on left!

Dear Dr. Hallett,

You are one of the kindest human beings I have ever met and in our field of movement disorders. There are not enough good things one can say about you as an astute clinician, amazing educator and kindest mentor. Everyone simply adores you and reveres you. I have been so fortunate to have had the honor and pleasure of interacting with you over the years. I have especially being closer to you through our association through the international FNDS. You are always so sweet and kind. I had the good fortune of interacting with Ms. Judy in Italy and just by the way she spoke about you, I could tell how much she loved you and respected you.

Thank you for all you have done for our field, for all your mentees and although I never directly worked with you, I do consider you a mentor. I pray for God to take care of you and for you to get some relief and better health.

Stay well, sweet man. You are so loved.

Warm regards,  
Shilpa



I will be forever grateful for Dr. Hallett's willingness to take time to talk with me and invite me to join the FNDS as a founding member when I was a fellow and new to the field. His inherent kindness and warmth over the years has encouraged my continued passion for improving care for FND. It is an honor and privilege to know and learn from him!

Ali Buchholz



Mark is a great teacher and a wonderful person. In addition to skills of movement disorders, he taught me basic life skills like humility and politeness. I am very proud to be one of his mentees. The last slide of my presentation at the National Institute of Health, USA, December 2022. Getting a magical touch from my teacher was truly special.

*From Sanjay Pandey*

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**Cherishing the company of 'Mark' at Delhi in 2023**



*From David Perez*

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Dear Mark - you are in the Mount Rushmore of researchers in the field of FND. My work in this area has been inspired by many of your scientific breakthroughs. I look fondly on our rich exchanges over the years, including working closely on the CNS Spectrums article while at Emory just prior to the start of the pandemic and at our dinner together at MDS in late 2024. Also - I smile when I think about seeing you bowl alongside other master movement disorder experts - and everyone seemed to bowl so well - yourself included! With gratitude and best wishes, David Perez



Dear Mark,

My career has been shaped by a number of heroes: people that I deeply respect, who perform inspirational work, and who have motivated me to pursue my own career in this field. Some of these heroes are brilliant scientists; others are astute clinicians; still others are simply wonderful mentors and colleagues. And occasionally, just very occasionally, you meet someone who has it all. And that is you! I have admired you for some many reasons, ever since we first met (shaking your hand for the first time in 1990 during a congress in Vancouver was a life-changing event for me, and I believe I did not wash my hands for days afterwards!). And to then realize that we have gradually grown from admiration to close colleagues to eventually friends is just wonderful and enormously gratifying. I know you are currently facing some personal challenges, and I wish you all the best with these. And more importantly, I hope to spend many more good moments with you! Bas

From my early career years at the NINDS and Children's National, to later stages at Boston Children's, I found Dr. Hallett to be in the most eclectic class of academic neurologists. Mark, you have always been generous and gracious as an editor, mentor from a distance, and role model. Thank you and congratulations on a remarkable career.

Phillip Pearl, M.D.

William G. Lennox Chair, Boston Children's Hospital

Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School

Boston



***Dear Dr. Hallett.... Thank you for always having that hand over my shoulder and providing your guidance through life and career... The time I spent as your fellow has been one of the most enriching and memorable experiences of my life... You are the conduit which connected so many amazing people, several of who are now dear friends... Your guidance and legacy will forever live on in all of us, whose lives you have enriched in many different and in your own special ways...My most sincere gratitude.....***

***Shabbir***

Professor Hallett is an inspiration; a professor, a scholar and also (maybe most importantly) a lovely person. His support for fnds has been instrumental in its creation and development and when he retires he leaves a joyful and expanding legacy. The first bit of proper writing I did was in the neurologic clinics handbook. I had Jon and Alan sign it but was too shy to ask Mark to because of his elevated status. Then I got sitting beside him at dinner and he was genuinely interested in me both as a junior researcher but also a person. It made me think about how I wanted to be when welcoming others to our research group. I've used that warmth as a basis for how I interact with others. I am still working on being even a fraction as knowledgeable but hey, we are all a work in progress! Thank you for all you've done Mark and for all you continue to do. Thank you for showing up to so many journal clubs and being present and interested in so many of us.

*From Vesper Ramos -- To the BiGGEST BIG BOSS EVER---Thank you for EVERYTHING :)*

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Thank you for teaching me the wisdom that EVERYTHING is REAL.

Mark,

Thank you for pushing the envelope and expanding our understanding of these important disorders that less visionary colleagues have referred to as the 'wasteland between Neurology and Psychiatry'.

Best regards,

Fatta Nahab MD

HMCS Fellow 2004-2008



*From Kathrin LaFaver*

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Fellows I-III on the FND study. Great fun from the FNDs conference in Edinburgh. Thanks for all the mentorship, inspiration and fun memories!



*From Alex Lehn*

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Dear Mark,  
thank for everything you have done for us and for the society. Without you we wouldn't be where we are. Your sharp mind, enthusiasm and compassion have carried us so far over the years!

Alex



Hosting the Baltimore-Washington Movement Disorders Dinner Conference in 2008, I witnessed a meltdown: a presenter in tears, a colleague storming out... I was frozen like a deer in headlights. Mark Hallett, with his signature insight, turned the tide. He addressed the NPH debate with balance and clarity, reminding us of scientific rigor. His words calmed the storm, proving his wisdom and gravitas. I certainly sighed relief, with a chance of moderating the session brought back to the normal I knew. Mark's superpower? Defusing academic explosions with grace and aplomb.



Prof. Hallett opened the door to research for me and transformed my life trajectory. In 2008, I received a prestigious fellowship to train under his guidance. Since then, he has mentored me through many pivotal career decisions. I've always admired his broad, integrative thinking—especially his ability to reconcile conflicting evidence into novel theories that drive science forward. His gentle, thoughtful, and inspiring personality continues to be my role model in mentoring the next generation. Thanks to Mark's guidance, I charted a unique path in cerebellar research, combining advanced optoelectrical techniques in mouse electrophysiology with innovative clinical approaches, including cerebellar EEG. Today, our team is among the global leaders in tremor pathophysiology, having discovered that the cerebellum encodes dynamic motor frequencies to guide motor kinematics. I am deeply grateful to be his fellow and will proudly carry his teachings forward.

Dear Mark, Our first interaction was in the late 1970s when I was considering a fellowship with David Marsden. You were very supportive and have been a great friend, colleague and mentor ever since. We've had so many amazing experiences together throughout the world; academic stimulation, fascinating travel, wonderful meals and companionship. With respect to FND, great memories include you treating us to the cherry blossoms in Washington, debates about the existence of free will in your home and me sleeping in your basement while we edited videotapes of patients with functional movement disorders. Your important contributions to so many areas of medicine are innumerable; the role you've played in putting Functional Neurological Disorder and the International Society on the map will turn out to be one of the most influential. Thank you!!



Dear Mark,

I have appreciated our many years of friendship and your distance mentorship to me in the field since our meeting at the first PMD conference in Peachtree City, GA in 2003.

Our research collaborations, lecturing around the world at conferences together, learning from you, and working in leadership of organizations with you has been a great pleasure. Your impact on me and countless others is immense and greatly valued.

Thank you for who you are and for all you have done over the decades.

Fondly and with deep admiration,  
Curt



*From W Curt LaFrance Jr., MD, MPH*

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Mark meeting and mentoring, around the world.



Mark as organizer, lecturer and scientist in one of the best meetings I ever attended



Geneva, 9/22: Mark in another role, carefully observing and documenting



Symbol of and wish for Mark: olive tree in Agrigento, Sicily, possibly of similar age as greek temple in background:

- great productivity in so many branches
- support (best mentor I ever had)
- role model (incl. steadfastness in challenging times)



Best wishes for all your future projects from Brida und Peter



It was an honor for me to work with Dr. Mark Hallett at the NIH,NINDS Parkinson's Clinic as Adjunt Investigator and Special volunteer from 2007 to 2018.

In addition to being a very valuable scientist who sheds light on universal medicine, he will always have a place in minds and hearts with his humanist and modest personality.

I wish to Dr.Hallett a long and healthy life.

Kemal Bayulkem MD  
Neurologist and Neuropsychiatrist  
Medikent Hospital Lüleburgaz- Kırklareli TURKEY





Dear Mark,

Your mentorship skills are truly exceptional—fascinating and educating disciples of all ages, as this moment beautifully captures! Whether offering scientific insight or sharing a laugh, you lead with warmth, curiosity, and an unshakable kindness. It's been a joy to learn from you—and to see that even the littlest minds are drawn to your style!

With admiration and warm wishes,

Traian

*From Sophie Cho*

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Congratulations on being honored by FNDS! It is absolutely no surprise to know of the hard work and mentorship you put into the field and guiding FNDS. As always, thank you for all of your efforts to not only train and mentor others, but also to support the lives of all kinds of people that are in need of clinical care and support.

*From Angela O'Neal*

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Mark,  
You are so awesome. The Wartenberg lecture was superb. FND is finally getting the attention it deserves.  
Angela





Dear Mark,

Congratulations to the Functional Neurological Disorder Society Founder's Award. When I joined your group in 1999-2002, we were always discussing psychogenic movement disorders and had no idea of their pathophysiology and were far from any treatment concepts. In 2025 we have clear clinical criteria, some idea of the origin and new therapeutic approaches. You have introduced and established a whole new field in neurology and created an international network of neurologists, psychologists and physiotherapists who are enthusiastically advancing the understanding of functional neurological disorders.

Best wishes, Kirsten (Kiel, Germany)



Mark,

I have so many great memories of the time I spent in the Human Motor Control Branch. In particular, the image of Chaos into Order - I have not been able to find the one on your door, so found the next best one, which is similar.

It represents the clear thinking you brought to everything you got involved in and from which we all benefitted so much.

Keep on helping us read more deeply, work together to be ready for the next challenge, and write with greater precision...

'Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man.' Francis Bacon.

From Peter Lin

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HMCS Meetings over lunch 2007





Dear Mark,

Congratulations on the well-deserved Founder Award from the Functional Neurological Disorder Society.

For me, you have always been an exceptional teacher and mentor in clinical neurophysiology, both in FND and other movement disorders. Your lectures are always rooted in deep knowledge, yet remain clear and engaging. You are a great example to me.

I fondly recall the Clinical Neurophysiology conference in Osaka, Japan, in 2010, where you participated in the Japanese dancing at the welcome ceremony. It was an impressive display, especially with your very white bare feet!

You were the first to congratulate me on receiving the Stanley Fahn Award in 2024. That meant a great deal to me. I was deeply honored when you mentioned considering me your successor in movement disorders and electrophysiology. Your shoes are far too big to fill! (not sure about this phrase but in Dutch it works well)

Warm regards,

Marina de Koning-Tijssen



When I applied for fellowship through SF Match, Dr. Hallett himself emailed me to ask whether I was interested in research. I remember being surprised that someone of his stature would take the time to reach out personally. When I replied that I was interested but needed more experience, he exchanged 10–12 emails with me in a single day just to find the right time for an interview. Now, as a busy attending, I look back and wonder how he ever made time for such personal, thoughtful interactions — and yet he still does. What continues to amaze me is his capacity to handle everything without ever seeming rushed or dismissive. He reviewed every single patient referred to HMCS, thoughtfully considered countless complicated case videos sent from across the world, supported fellows individually, and offered (and still does) meaningful feedback on countless manuscripts — all while maintaining calm, clarity, and focus.



His teaching feels effortless. He speaks softly, moves with calm authority, and manages to teach something new to everyone present, regardless of their level of training.



Beyond being the best neurologist I know, Dr. Hallett is a biker, a photographer, a fantastic steak cook, and a budding ice cream maker. These sides of him remind me that excellence in medicine can exist alongside joy, curiosity, and balance.

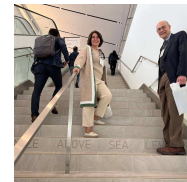
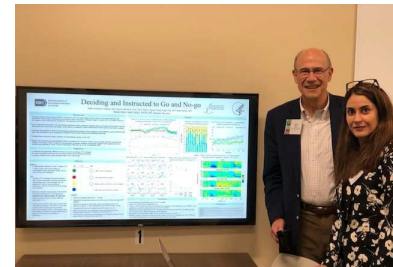
He is the rare combination of disciplined and flexible, brilliant yet humble. And perhaps one of his greatest legacies is the community he has built — a large, international group of trainees and colleagues who continue to collaborate like birds of a feather, bound by a shared spirit of inquiry and camaraderie.



Even now, 5–6 years after graduation, he remains my go-to person whenever I encounter a clinical or academic dilemma. His thoughts still shine across the distance, illuminating the path ahead. His work on the neuroscience of free will shaped not only my understanding of human motor control but also my philosophical outlook on life itself.



He also gave me confidence and independence. I remember working on a project together where documentation was critical (the Havana syndrome evaluation). When I revised a note to reflect his exam findings, he sent it back and said gently, “This is your evaluation, not mine.” He wanted me to own my assessment. That trust has stayed with me.



I hope the field continues to be graced by Dr. Hallett's tall stature and steady, humble steps echoing through the hallways of major neurology gatherings around the world. His presence has always embodied quiet strength, deep wisdom, and a kind of reverence that uplifts everyone around him.



Dear Mark,

Sooo many memories... mainly when I think of you I think of a large warm smile!

And this smile has encouraged me as it represented a supportive mentor, never critical always positive. You have been a key "mentor" or even "sponsor" in my career. You accepted to sign my "business plan" to ask for money in Switzerland to build an FND clinic, already in 2015.. and it worked, as I was able to open the first in-patient FND center in the country!

Then our numerous exchanges about science have been such a pleasure and drive, motivation.

In particular I loved the conversation about the amygdala we had at the end of the AAN conference in Denver 2024... we got kicked out by the cleaning staff..and ended up continuing our conversation under the snow :-)

Your everlasting calm and enthusiasm will stay with me forever, your pragmatic and efficient approach and above of your character and kindness.

Thanks Mark for being such a model !

Best wishes,

Selma





I cherish the memory of the years I spent in your lab at the NIH.  
Despite the multiple administrative and procedural constraints you  
were able to give us a feeling of freedom and to push us for producing  
a quality scientific work.....

I have always admired your curiosity for multiple kinds of fields and  
not just scientific ones. Among them I want to point out our common  
interest for Indian culture.

Sabine Meunier

Dear Mark - I first met you as a junior faculty, trying to understand how to use botulinum toxin in complex upper extremity dystonias and tremors (wire electrodes inserted into forearm muscles - first experience with you!). Your kind approach and thoughtful answers to so many questions I had made me comfortable to continue to learn and treat people in WV for decades to follow. You always had time to talk if I reached out or ran into you at meetings. Thank you for helping so many of us learn alongside you, including in the understanding of functional neurological disorders. I am grateful I met you so long ago!



Early memory from the Brigham and Women's Hospital from your first fellow (at Brigham and Women's Hospital):

We were all in the new space for the neurophysiology lab on a weekend. A man wearing a white coat came up to Mark and asked where the new equipment was kept. Mark pointed out all the locations of the new electric typewriters. After the weekend, they were all missing! It turns out the man in the white coat was not an employee to help set the lab up, but was a sneaky thief. Congratulations to you Mark on your amazing career and well-deserved awards. It is a supreme honor to have been your fellow!

Shah





Dr. Hallett:

Congratulations on this well-deserved award!

I still vividly remember—20 years ago, as a movement disorders fellow—our Monday clinics together, seeing so many patients with functional movement disorders. You were an incredible listener and a true scientist, always striving to understand the biology behind these conditions and determined to find ways to ease patients' suffering.

You were instrumental in shaping this new field—always with humility, kindness, and compassion.

Adding a more personal memory—my daughter, who was just three years old in Aspen, riding on the pulley attachment of the bicycle, is now an adult. Time truly flies! I've always enjoyed seeing you at conferences and thoroughly appreciated you and Judy visiting us in Honolulu. I hope to continue seeing you here in the future!

Warmest Aloha,  
Michiko Kimura Bruno

Toward the end of 1972, there was some sort of crisis in the Neurology Department. at MGH. Raymond Adams, at that time the Chair of the Department, was out of the country and not easily reached or able to respond sufficiently. Dr. Adams was widely viewed as having few, if any, peers as a contributor to the development of the field of Neurology and as a neurologic clinician. With respect to his interest in or skill as an administrator, opinions were somewhat more variable. As Chief Resident at that time, I was privy to some of the ongoing discussions among the department members. During one such. conversation, one of the younger attendings commented, "the Department will be just fine. We have Hallett." Mark was a first-year resident.

*From Bob & Jane Loeffler*

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**To Mark Hallett**, treasured friend--Bob's college classmate and close pal ever since, who has shared his wisdom, humor, tales of amazing travel, and brilliant medical insights with us at happy events over decades. We are so fortunate to have been part of the extended Hallett family over the years. All the Loeffler's join in celebrating Mark as he receives this much-deserved honor. **Gratulatio!**



When Mark Hallett first approached me about a new society that he was founding (FNDS), it did not surprise me. Neither did his enthusiasm about the future of this new organization. This is something that he simply does. We first met in 1999 when he was president of the Movement Disorder Society. Since that time, his involvement in any number of societies and journals has amazed me.

In my work, I talk with many distinguished scientists. During dinner conversation at a non-neurology society's meeting, their president was astonished that I had worked with Mark Hallett with four different organizations. To her, his work and legacy is incomparable. She thought it amazing that I had been able to work with him. I concur, Dr. Hallett is an exceptional man and I am privileged every time that we work together.



I am so grateful to have completed my fellowship under your mentorship. You taught me so much of what I know and did so with a hearty laugh and a humble spirit. The Monday HMCS clinic was always one of the highlights of my week, and I continue to use pearls I learned in this clinic when seeing my own patients. You fostered a collegial lab environment where I made collaborators as well as friends. Get-togethers with former HMCS lab members continue to be a highlight at meetings. Thank you for everything Dr. Hallett!!

"Be fruitful and multiply." Genesis

Mark, I can't think of a better way to summarize the seminal effect that you and your work have had on our field. With greatest respect and admiration, thank you!





Mark and Judy Hallett visited us in Boothbay, Maine, in September 2024. We are in front of Roskva, one of the giant trolls, "Guardians of the Seed," by Danish artist Thomas Danbo. It was wonderful to reconnect after many years.  
Congratulations, Mark!

Merrill and Maya Liteplo

The inspiring Mark Hallett married my dear first cousin Judy during my callow youth— and became a force of light and care in the Stern Peller family. We knew him as the family member whom we could always turn to. We are sure that he would be the perfect mentor. When in the last year of my father's life, Margaret and I (the theater majors) sensed, despite Saul's doctors, that something was deeply impacting him neurologically—we turned to Mark. He took Saul in and evaluated and diagnosed with care and focus, and the stenosis was discovered. We honor you Mark for who you are, what you've accomplished, and what you've done for all of us. Love, Stephen, Margaret, and Sarah Stern



This is a truly well deserved honour. Mark, you have done so much for FND and movement/motor disorders in general and are truly a Founder of the field. Your kindness, collegiality and mentorship are second to none and many leaders in FND and across other disciplines have arisen under your tutelage.

Including here a photo from a wonderful dinner at MDS surrounded by people who have been inspired by you.

It is a privilege and honour to know you, to have learned and received mentorship from you and wish you all the very best.

Hello Dr. Hallett,

You have no idea who I am, but I felt inspired to let you know that your work and legacy has reached many providers whom you've never met directly. And I am one of them. Your tireless research and advocacy for FND has directly impacted me out here in the wilds of West Virginia. Your work will live on through the patients I see who improve and get their life back, in no small part because of what I have learned from your publications and presentations. So, while this book, I'm sure, will be filled with cherished memories from those close to you, please know that there are untold multitudes admiring you from afar.

-Nicholas Jasinski, PsyD, ABPP

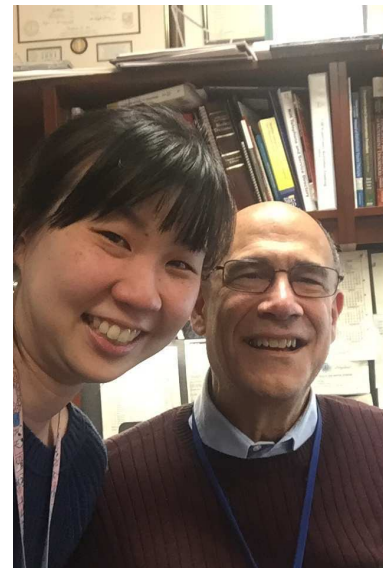
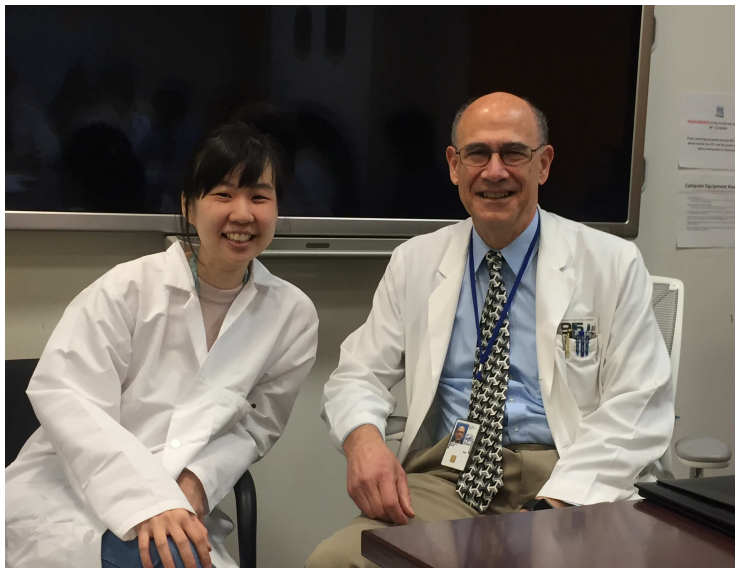


Thank you for teaching us to be a good, humble and respectful neurologist. I have learnt from you not only knowledge but also mankind and how to love what you are doing. You are always my role model and inspiration. I will continue to do research in neuroscience and movement disorders and contribute to this scientific community.



*From Pattamon (Oh) Panyakaew*

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**My Best Mentor Ever**

*From Sally and Jerry Ganzfried*

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Dear Mark,  
We share many fond memories and our family has greatly appreciated your path-breaking work on FND. The attached picture is just one of our favorites, sunset on the Boston skyline from Hingham.  
Sally and Jerry Ganzfried



A life in science offers many privileges—but the rarest is to learn from someone whose brilliance is matched only by his kindness. Meeting Mark Hallett was a moment that shaped everything that followed. At the NIH, Mark opened the door to a whole universe of possibilities by encouraging us to dream boldly, reminding us that the only true limit in research is the limit of our imagination.

With clarity and logic, he built bridges across complexity, making the hardest problems feel solvable. I still wonder how one man could possibly acquire such comprehensive knowledge, appreciating that in Mark's personal web of science, findings and facts are connected to the people asking the right questions, therefore solidifying this very knowledge with personal associations, keeping it up-to-date by staying as curious as ever.

Mark shares his wisdom with grace, humility, and generosity. His influence lives in all of us—shaping how we think, lead, and care. Every day I'm aware of it. Thank you, Mark!

Dear Mark,

Several years ago as you may recall I made a telephone call to you about spending time on an ongoing basis with you and the group at NIH to study children from Children's Hospital with movement disorders. In a millisecond your response characteristically was "great" and it has indeed been a great ride!.

We saw vexing cases, occasionally functional, and you tried to teach me electrophysiology. More importantly on so many other occasions we had wonderful professional and personal experiences for which I am most grateful. Whether social opportunities, a concert, a dinner with our families or watching a sun set in Maine thanks for not only advancing neuro science, but being a fabulous mentor and close friend in all aspects. Congratulations on all counts. With fondest regards and best wishes.

Bennett







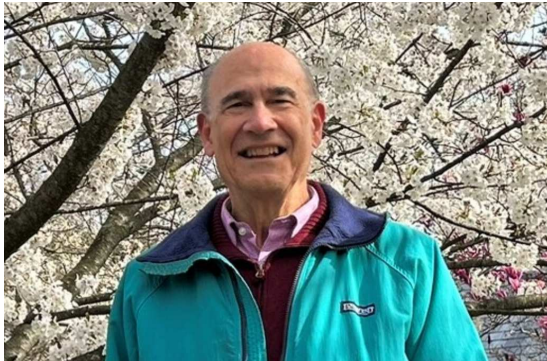


Dear Mark,

Thank you for your incredible dedication and outstanding service to NIH and NINDS. It is an amazing career spanning over four decades in federal service. We are grateful for your mentorship, leadership and friendship. You have transformed the fields of free will, neurophysiology and functional movement disorders. Your work has been recognized by the numerous awards from organizations all over the world. Besides your contributions in leadership positions of various professional organizations, in your role as the previous clinical director, the chair of the scientific review committee and chair of the promotion and tenure committee for several years, you have helped shape the careers and direction of research at NINDS for many years and into the foreseeable future. I will miss our Wednesday evening discussions about the latest developments in Neurology as part of the editorial board of Practice Update. It has been a great honor to know you. With regards.

*From Avi Nath*

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Dear Mark,

Thank you so much for your mentorship and friendship — you have had a major impact on my career in science. Approximately 18 years ago, I had just started my PhD as part of a US–European partnership and nervously traveled to a conference in Malmö, where I was to meet my "American supervisor" — a person I had so far only known through reading many of his seminal papers on TMS and brain plasticity. Your generosity, warmth, and humility always made it easy for me to approach you, to discuss science openly, and to ask questions freely. It's an attitude you fostered in your entire lab, and I had a wonderful time, both personally and professionally, during my stay — learning from you and from all your brilliant fellows. In the German tradition, the word for a PhD supervisor is Doktorvater and implies deep respect and a long and formative mentorship that goes beyond the PhD period - for you no title can be more fitting.

Thank you,  
Anke



*From Silvina G Horovitz*

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Then and now, seventeen years, lots of memories. Happy I've shared this journey with you, Mark.

With heartfelt appreciation, Silvina

Mark:

Thank you for your outstanding contribution to neurophysiology and functional neurological disorder that shaped our field. We learned a lot from you and looking forward to more.

Robert



*From TLang:Spoleto, Italy 1993: Hallett, Jankovic, Berardelli, Melamed, Lang, Olanow*

---



Kerala, India, Feb 2020: Bhatia, Lang, Lozano and Hallett



Dear Mark,

We are always thinking back on all the wonderful movements that we spend with you, starting as you being our chief, mentor and friend. And we enjoyed very much the moments when you came to Italy and we could do experiments on collaborative projects. When you came to Italy, you were always ready to go to the lab and test out new theories. You were always saying that you liked very much the fact of being able to spend time in the lab without interferences. And we always admired how you were able to arrive from the US, and after half and hour rest was able to being a tourist or trying new theories in the lab. Our friendship with you, Judy and the family is always great moments for us, and we have added a photo from a dinner in Rome with you and Judy.

Marcela & Jan

*From Sarah Lidstone*

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Dear Mark,

I feel very fortunate to have started my career in FND at a time that you, Jon, and Alan were just launching the FNDS. You bring energy, expertise, and excellence to our field and your open-mindedness really paved the way to get this new subspecialty of neurology off the ground. What you have built is a tremendous accomplishment. It's been a privilege to get to work alongside you along the way, and learn from your example. Many others feel the same. You can rest assured that the seeds you have planted all over the world are sprouting and growing into a rich, interconnected FND garden. Thank you for your vision and your mentorship...and always being up for a laugh!

Sarah Lidstone



Dear Mark, some nice memories from Verona (June 2019 and June 2024)







Your mentorship has been a rare gift: you've offered insight when I needed direction and the freedom to find my own path—your trust has meant more than words can say. I'd have not been the scientist I am without you.

With deepest gratitude and affection,

Vera





It has been one of the greatest honors of my career to have been mentored by Dr. Mark Hallett. As his clinical fellow from 2018 to 2021, I had the unique privilege of learning from a true giant in the field of Movement Disorders. Dr. Hallett not only elevated my clinical and research skills, but also imparted invaluable insights that cannot be found in books or papers. His mentorship has profoundly shaped my career and continues to inspire me. I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have worked alongside him, and he remains a role model for me and for many of my colleagues. Dr. Hallett, thank you for being an exceptional mentor, an inspiring teacher, and a true example of professional excellence. (By the way I still use the headshot that you captured with your camera at the NIH and I refuse to update it, despite the efforts of my institution to update it - also a great excuse to keep looking young!)

*From Holly Shill*

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Thank you for your excellent guidance as fellowship director and for continuing to mentor me. I truly appreciate the opportunity to keep learning from your expertise.



Dr. Hallett, a devoted teacher, pioneering researcher, and passionate traveler.

Dear Dr. Hallett,

You have been an incredible mentor, and I am deeply grateful for the positive impact you've had on my professional and personal growth. My time at NIH was filled with great memories, largely thanks to you. I often reflect on those days fondly, especially during my post-fellowship years. Your guidance and support have been invaluable, and I truly miss our work relationship.

Thank you for everything,  
Sepideh





Sweet Sweet , the memories you gave to me.

Take one kayak ride in Maine,

Sweet Sweet

Add a pinch of pain,

Sweet Sweet

You can't beat, the memories you gave to me:

One wife, two kids,

Trips in Bah Hahbah

Crabs, not squids,

Sweet Sweet, etc. You are a good friend, husband, father, grampa, as well as  
Neurological Wonder.

We hope this day and many more bring you peace and sunshine.

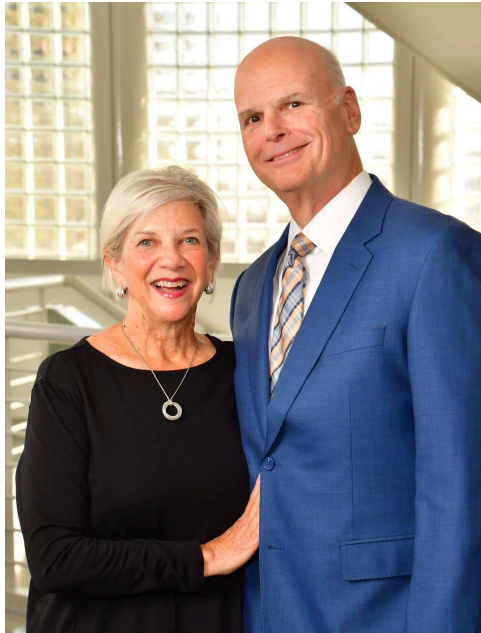


Congratulations, Mark, on this well-deserved award! You are a pioneer and thought-leader in the FND field, making lasting contributions that have truly moved the field and patient care forward. It has been an honor to be trained under your guidance and wisdom. Thank you for your mentorship and for the example you have set for us all as a researcher, mentor and clinician!

Warm Wishes,  
Pritha



Mark is a friend and mentor who taught me about the art and science of neurology. He always made the time to help me with my research projects. I will always appreciate his guidance. Marty Bielawski



My favorite Mark Hallett Moment:

So I was a first year fellow at PBBH . Professor David Marsden was coming from London to visit our labs in Boston. Mark who was usually very cool, calm and collected was a bit on edge which in itself was amusing. While introducing all of us to Dr. Marsden, he was extremely jubilant to introduce me to him explaining to him that "I was from New Orleans. I was here to learn electrophysiology as we do to get electricity down there very soon! " My retort ; No you brought me to Boston to teach Voo Doo medicine.

Thank you Mark for all you have done for me , for all your fellows and the profession as a whole

Best of Luck

Charlie Kaufman



Dear Dr. Hallett,

It's hard to believe that it's already been eight years since my time at the NIH Motor Control Section. That one year was truly one of the most memorable and meaningful periods of my life. Thanks to you and everyone in the lab, I've continued to work in this field with genuine interest and joy.

I know I was a bit shy back then and probably didn't express how much I admire and respect you—but please know that you've always remained a great inspiration to me. Thank you so much for inviting me to be part of FNDS. I'm truly honored, and I also want to send my heartfelt thanks and congratulations for all your amazing contributions to the field.

Warm wishes,

Hye Won

*From Judy and Ron Milestone*

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Congrats, Mark, on this special honor. High fives from the Milestones.



Dear Mark, Here's my quandary: How do I thank a neuroscientist who called into question the existence of free will?! How can i thank you for accepting me into your lab “off season” in 1998, for the Movement Disorders textbook that changed my life course, for shepherding me into grad school and residency, for attending my wedding, for laying the foundation for the Division that I would one day lead? For (unwillingly!) giving me and countless others a precious slice of the American Dream to call my own? Did I mention being one of the greatest experimentalists in systems neuroscience? You may not demonstrably have had agency, but here’s my thought: Free or bound, every so often a great and generous soul appears among us, leaving precious seedlings of themselves all over the world to sprout and take new life, evolve into something new. You are one among those rare few, Mark. And now you leave me no choice but to thank you! Thank you for everything, Mark. Vik & Chee Yeun, Jaya and Mira.

*From Debra Ehrlich*

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Mark,  
Congratulations on receiving the Founder's Award! You have done so much to advance the field of functional neurological disorders (in addition to all of movement disorders) and educate those of us who care for people with FND and I'm so glad to see you receiving this well-deserved recognition. It has been a privilege and an honor to work closely with you over the past 8 years. I've learned from you what it means to be a true leader and mentor and I hope to be able to continue the legacy you have built at NINDS. Looking forward to continue learning from you!





Congratulations, Dr. Hallett, on having received the inaugural FND Founders Award! Your exemplary leadership and mentorship are evident in all that you do, and the success of FND is a testament to that.

Likewise, on behalf of the leadership and membership of the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS), thank you for your contributions to our Society, as well as the greater field of neurology. Your mentorship has meant a great deal to many.

Again, congratulations!



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

**National Institute of Neurological  
Disorders and Stroke  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892**

November 5, 2022

Dr. Jeffrey Diamond

Acting Scientific Director

Dear Dr. Diamond,

It is with great pride that I recommend Dr. Hallett for an appointment as a Scientist Emeritus in NINDS.

On December 31, 2022, Dr. Hallett will retire from civil service after a stellar career spanning 38 years of with outstanding service in the field of Medical Neurology. Dr. Hallett is a world renowned expert in movement disorders. He is the Chief of the Medical Neurology Branch (MNB), and Senior Investigator of the Human Motor Control Section (HMCS). The Branch consists of two Sections: The Human Motor Control Section (HMCS) founded by Dr. Hallett in 1984, and the Human Cortical Physiology and Stroke Rehabilitation Section (HCPS) established in 1997. He is widely credited as a pioneer who played a major role in initiating the discipline of movement disorders as a subspecialty of Neurology. He has a stellar career. He has edited nearly 30 books, served on the editorial board of over 40 journals which includes all the major Neurology journals such as Annals of Neurology, Neurology, Brain, and Movement Disorders. He was Editor in Chief of Clinical Neurophysiology for 8 years, and Associate Editor of Brain, which at the time had the highest impact factor of all clinical neurology journals.

He has published over a 1000 manuscripts and reviews. He was one of the pioneers in the use of transcranial magnetic stimulation. The general goal of his research is to develop an understanding of human movement, pathophysiology of human neurological disorders, and the development of rehabilitative strategies based on these findings. Both focus on human studies, and the tools used are similar including clinical neurophysiological techniques, particularly transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) and neuroimaging. The principal diseases studied are stroke, dystonia, Parkinson's disease, cerebellar ataxia, myoclonus, essential tremor, tic, and functional (psychogenic) movement disorders.

Patients are studied with a wide variety of techniques including transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), electroencephalography (EEG), magneto-encephalography (MEG), neuroimaging with positron emission tomography (PET) and various types of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Dr. Hallett distinguished himself very early in his career. He graduated from Harvard College in 1965 Magna Cum Laude and from Harvard Medical School Cum Laude in 1969. Following his internship in Boston, he joined the laboratory of Neurobiology in the National Institute of Mental Health as a Staff Associate in 1970, a position he held for two years. He then returned to Boston where he did a residency in Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital. This was followed by a year long fellowship in the Department of Neurology at the Institute of Psychiatry in London England. Here he worked with Prof. C.D. Marsden who was founding the field of Movement Disorders at that time. He then returned to Boston as the Director of the Neurophysiology Laboratories at the Peter Bent Brigham (which became Brigham and Women's) Hospital. During this time, he rose to the rank of Associate Professor in Neurology at Harvard Medical School. In 1984 he was recruited to NIH as the Clinical Director of NINCDS (NINDS) a position he held until 2000. He also established the Motor Control Section within the Medical Neurology Branch and remains its current chief, positions he has held for nearly 40 years. Thus Dr, Hallett has spent the majority of his academic career at NIH and held multiple leadership positions and has raised the profile of this institution as a premier place for studying neurological disease.

He is considered one of the world's experts in two subspecialties of neurology, clinical neurophysiology and movement disorders. Dr. Hallett's contributions to motor control physiology and the pathophysiology of movement disorders have touched many areas since graduating medical school 53 years ago. In addition to advancing science and medicine, he has made innovations with and employed many non-invasive techniques for studying human physiology, including EEG/MEG, MRI, PET, and TMS. He was also among the first to use botulinum toxin therapy for motor disorders. He is certified in Neurology by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology with added Qualifications in Clinical Neurophysiology. He is also certified by the American Board of Clinical Neurophysiology and the American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine. Using these unique skills and qualifications, Dr. Hallett has merged the fields of Movement disorders, psychiatry and clinical neurophysiology to tackle some of the most difficult problems in medicine. In recent years, he focused his research on functional movement disorders, also termed conversion disorders or hysteria. These problems have fascinated many great minds over the centuries, and much has been written about them in the medical, scientific, and philosophical literature, but Dr. Hallett is the first to decipher the biological and underlying -

- physiological mechanisms of these diseases. Due to his efforts, the field has grown to where a Society for Functional Disorders was recently formed with Dr. Hallett as its first President.

His research activities have focused on the physiology of human voluntary movement and its pathophysiology in disordered voluntary movement and involuntary movement. Throughout his research career Dr. Hallett has made several notable discoveries. I have detailed a few of the most notable discoveries below. These include the discovery of “cross modal plasticity”. He found that in blind people where the visual cortex does not receive visual input from the eye, the visual cortex gets innervated by the somatosensory cortex and thus touch and tactile stimuli get processed there. It demonstrated for the first time that the brain was very plastic and could easily reroute its connections. These findings were published in Nature and opened new areas of investigation. This paper has been cited over 700 times. He has published a body of literature on the motor dysfunction in patients with Parkinson disease. His paper on a mechanism of bradykinesia is a classic. He has explored the pathophysiology of other motor problems such as the sequence effect and why patients with Parkinson’s Disease lose their ability to automate their movement.

His laboratory has studied the brain processes associated with the preparation and execution of different types of movements particularly the process of movement initiation and volition. A unique aspect of his research is that he utilizes the most modern neuroimaging techniques such as PET scanning and functional MRI in combination with neurophysiological techniques such as transcranial magnetic stimulation, EMG and evoked potentials to decipher these complex processes and networks within the brain. His team has studied how the brain learns skilled movement of the limbs, how the process of making a movement becomes automatic, and how the brain uses the process of movement selectivity to create precision of movement. He has studied the physiological basis of focal hand dystonia that affects writers (writer’s cramp) and musicians (musician’s cramp), both of which appear due to repeated use of their hands. His group discovered that there is an impairment of the premotor-parietal network in these patients which is accompanied with dopamine release abnormalities in the striatum. To treat these disorders, he has created the botulinum toxin clinic where he treats patients with dystonia by weakening the overactive muscles with botulinum toxin. His pioneering work in botulinum toxin treatment was recognized by the International Neurotoxin Association with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Hallett has used the study of motor initiation to study the scientific basis of free will. It is an important aspect consciousness and may eventually help to show how awareness is generated. In doing so, he has challenged the prevailing “folk psychology” that consciousness of volition precedes movement.

Dr. Hallett's research career has been recognized by numerous awards which includes distinguished service awards, lifetime achievement awards, honorary degrees and honorary professorships and honorary memberships from various societies within the US and several countries in Europe and Asia. His impact on Neurology both in movement disorders and clinical neurophysiology on an international level is unparalleled by his peers. This reflected in the honors given to him by various countries. A partial list includes, the Great wall friendship award from the city of Beijing, China; Honorary Member, Austrian Parkinson Society; Honorary Member, Czech Clinical Neurophysiology Society; Honorary Member, British Society of Clinical Neurophysiology, National Friendship Award (China); Dino Garavoglia Prize of the Italian Association for Neurological Research; Honorary Member of the Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Klinische Neurophysiologie; Membre d'honneur à titre étranger of the Société Française de Neurologie ; Wilhelm-Erb-Gedenkmünze of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Neurologie ; Distinguished member Japanese Society of Neurology; Lifetime achievement award from the Association of Indian Neurologists of America; Honorary member European Society of Neurology ; World Federation of Neurology Medal for contribution to neuroscience; Lifetime achievement award from the International Association for Parkinsonism and Related Disorders.

He has held leadership positions in several professional societies. He was the vice-president of the American Academy of Neurology, which is the largest organization of neurologists in the world. He was on the Board of Directors of American Clinical Neurophysiology Society. He is the past president of the Movement Disorders Society. He is also the past president of the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology. He was on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Clinical Neurophysiology. He is also the past president of the Brainstem Society. He is also very active in the World Federation of Neurology and has held several leadership positions within that society.

Within NINDS, he has served as a chair or member of numerous committees and has had a major impact on its current structure and stature. He commands the respect of all the faculty and staff who regularly look up to him for advice and mentorship. Until recently he played a critical role as the chair of the Promotions and Tenure committee and as chair of the Protocol Implementation Review Committee now called the Scientific review Committee, which is responsible for the scientific review of all clinical research protocols. Both committees were very active and busy, thus Dr. Hallett shouldered major administrative tasks. He did a superb job in both these roles. He is fair and just and commands the respect of all the PIs and staff. He has also served as the chair of several key search committees in NINDS and other ICs.



He has a spectacular training record. He received both the NIH Director's mentorship award and the Distinguished Clinical Teacher Award, NIH Fellows Committee, in 2015. He has trained well over 150 fellows, many of whom are also leaders in Neurology. One remarkable fact is that 4 of his fellows are Chairs of Neurology Departments in Germany. One is a Chair of Neurology in the USA, and another is Dean of Research at Harvard Medical School.

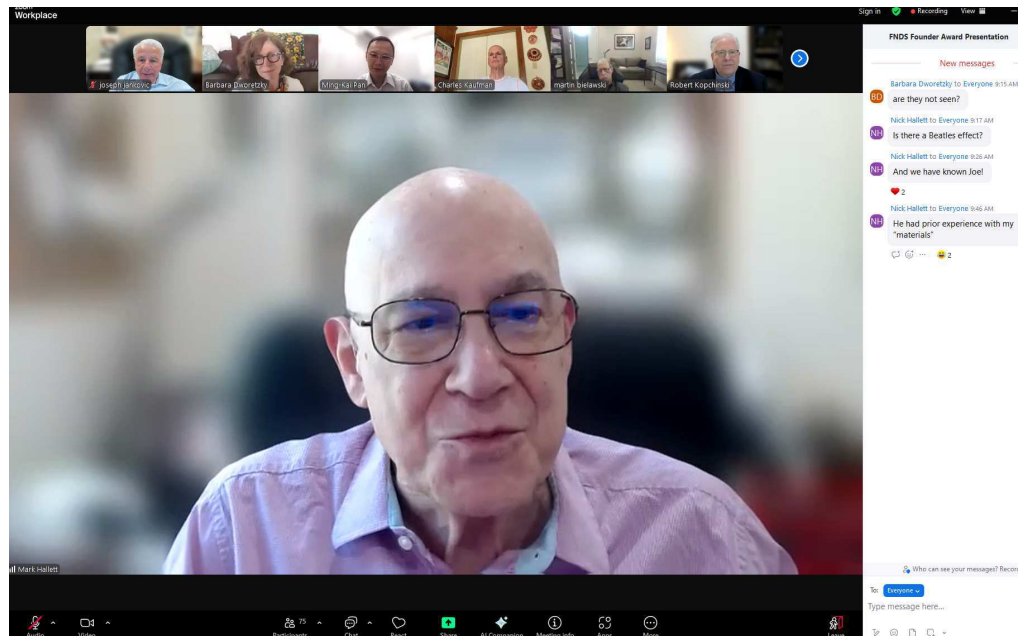
Dr. Hallett's work had a major impact as is evidenced by several parameters. The journal, Nature in 2014 published the world's most cited authors using citations of paper published between 1996 and 2011. Dr. Hallett was ranked the second most cited movement disorder expert and the only person from NINDS to make the list. He ranked 232nd worldwide which is certainly a very honorable distinction. He was recently invited to write an authoritative review on essential tremor that was published in New England Journal of Medicine. His invited review in Nature on the basis and method of transcranial magnetic stimulation has been cited 801 times. His work in non-invasive brain stimulation has been pioneering and has recently been recognized with the Brain Stimulation Award of the Brain Stimulation Journal. He is an inventor of an NIH patent on a type of coil for brain stimulation, now licensed by Brainsway, and FDA approved for the treatment of depression and obsessive-compulsive disease. In 2020, he was appointed as an NIH Distinguished Scientist.

For all these reasons, he is strongly recommended for the Emeritus position in NINDS. Without a doubt he will continue to serve NIH and continue to make impactful contributions to the academic environment at NIH and throughout the world.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Avindra Nath', with a stylized, cursive script.

Avindra Nath, M.D.  
Chief, Section of Infections of the Nervous System  
Clinical Director, NINDS NIH



Congratulations Mark on all of your amazing accomplishments!





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