



Celebrating the contributions of Monte and Sherry Buchsbaum and their impact on Psychiatry Research



Sherry Buchsbaum was born and grew up in Pittsburgh, where she first met Monte. She then moved to NYC in the middle of her college years, ultimately obtaining a BA degree in English from Adelphi University. One of her first jobs was with *Redbook Magazine*, but then after moving to Maryland and she and Monte married, she began working as the managing editor for *Schizophrenia Bulletin*. I initially met Sherry when I submitted my first paper to *Schizophrenia Bulletin*. She was incredibly helpful facilitating my understanding of the journal submission process and how to be ultimately successful in publishing a paper. It was shortly after that time that I became interested in journal editing myself, establishing and working as editor of *Schizophrenia Research* and now *Psychiatry Research*, with Sherry's guidance still leading me on.

Monte, originally born in Chicago, also spent his early years in Pittsburgh where he obtained his undergraduate degree and then moved to California, receiving an MD from the University of California in San Francisco. He moved to Maryland to become a National Institutes Mental Health (NIMH) postdoctoral fellow and then worked in the NIMH intramural division for many years afterwards, focusing his career on the neurophysiology and brain functioning of primarily people with schizophrenia. He was most known for his pioneering work with PET scanning early on when this technology had just been newly applied to medicine. He is the author or co-author of over 500 publications and a colleague and mentor for countless other international researchers who were influenced to pursue their careers through encouragement by Monte, spurred on by his amazing creativity and enthusiasm for the science and international pursuits of science.

I crossed paths in many ways with Monte Buchsbaum from the earliest days of my career to the present. The Journal, *Psychiatry Research*, was founded in the 1970s, officially 1978, by Monte Buchsbaum and Fredrick Goodwin, both senior members of the Intramural Research Division of NIMH by then. That same year, 1978, was the year I entered the field of psychiatry research and was beginning as a young post-doctoral fellow in the Laboratory of Psychopharmacology. I met Monte Buchsbaum also in that same year, when, as the inpatient attending psychiatrist, I had the privilege of caring for the well known Genain Quadruplets while they underwent several research studies at NIMH. The main questions at that time were focused on why four identical sisters, then in their 50s, suddenly all developed schizophrenia within 6 months of each other 30 years previously. Monte, Allen Mirsky and myself were the main team members who divided up the work to obtain current diagnoses, psychological testing, brain scans and EEG studies on each of the four quadruplets. The results were subsequently published in *Psychiatry Research* (Buchsbaum et al., 1984; DeLisi et al., 1984; Mirsky et al., 1984), but at

the time I was cautioned by Elliot Gershon, who headed the NIMH Neurogenetics Laboratory, which I later joined, that an “N” of one sequence of DNA did not make a study. In retrospect, while these women were certainly very interesting from a clinical perspective, Dr. Gershon was certainly correct and I later went on to understand how truly complex and heterogeneous the genetics of schizophrenia would come to be known. One rare case of four identical quadruplets could have been a result of a unique rare spontaneous germ-line mutation or accumulation of multiple common risk alleles present in their family. However, studying the Genains was at the time a diversion for me, as my main work was examining whole blood platelet monoamine oxidase (p-MAO) levels in people with schizophrenia. Monte Buchsbaum had also published in that field (Coursey et al., 1979), as had my laboratory chief, whose claim to fame at the time was a publication he co-authored reporting that low platelet MAO activity was a biological marker for schizophrenia (Murphy and Wyatt, 1972). It was my task to show that it was an inherited biomarker that segregated with the diagnosis of schizophrenia within families. Much to the surprise of most investigators involved in this field, however, instead, my data showed that the lowered activity in people with schizophrenia was the consequence of treatment with antipsychotic medication. These results were published in *Psychiatry Research* in 1981 (DeLisi et al., 1981) and had a tremendous effect on the number of subsequent studies that followed on low p-MAO as a biological marker for any illness.

Of note, the finding I had in the field of which I am most proud was also published in *Psychiatry Research* in 1997 and outlined my work pursuing the hypothesis that schizophrenia is partly a progressive brain disease (DeLisi et al., 1997). At that time, when most investigators accepted that schizophrenia was neurodevelopmental, I began publicly presenting information from a longitudinal prospectively controlled follow-up MRI study that clearly showed progressive change over time in cortical volume and ventricular size, something that continues to be controversial even to the present.

Throughout my career, I always respected the journal, *Psychiatry Research*, as a journal whose editor appreciated the importance of work I was pursuing and was a journal I could turn to for publishing quality peer reviewed work. It was a great honor to be recently selected as the new editor of *Psychiatry Research*, a role I accepted when Monte and Sherry retired after 40 years of dedicating themselves to the field. While I doubt I will be able to edit it for another 40 years, I hope that I can instill in my authors and readership the same principles for publishing high quality research results that Monte and Sherry put forth. I continue to follow humbly in their footsteps.

To acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of both Monte and Sherry in the last 40+ years, the papers that follow have been brought

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Fig. 1. Monte and Sherry Buchsbaum.



Fig. 2. Lynn DeLisi, Monte Buchsbaum and Sherry Buchsbaum, left to right. taken at a conference in Vienna, Austria, July 2005.

together as a series of reviews by collaborators and colleagues of Monte and Sherry over the years and by individuals, including myself, who ultimately became successful researchers based on the mentoring they received from Monte (Figs. 1 and 2).

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