

*“We sit on the threshold of important new advances in neuroscience that will yield increased understanding of how the brain functions and of more effective treatments to heal brain disorders and diseases. How the brain behaves in health and disease may well be the most important question in our lifetime.”* -- Richard D. Broadwell (in *Neuroscience, Memory and the Brain*, 1995)

The brain is one of the most complex and important factors in education. But do we really understand how it works? How can we open the door of inquisitiveness to our students, capture their attention, and give them the knowledge and information that they need to be successful in their education and in life?

In the past thirty years, science has discovered so much about how we think and learn; how our mind ages and regenerates itself; and how we can retrain, mend and cure brain-based problems. Increasingly, science is now teaching us how we can *improve* our thinking, *restore* our memories and *enhance* our mental wellbeing.

This topic is essential to any educator – and learner – and will be covered as the keynote presentation on November 13<sup>th</sup> at the 2009 MACAE Annual Conference. Beginning with an interactive session with one of the world's experts in brain research - Apostolos P. Georgopoulos, Director of the University of Minnesota's Brain Sciences Center. He is at the cutting edge of brain research. In May, he was honored by the “20th Neuronal Plasticity Prize, awarded to three eminent scientists for their research into the domain of the brain-machine interaction” during the 9th Société des Neurosciences Meeting in Bordeaux, France.

Dr. Georgopoulos, MD and PhD, is an internationally-recognized and awarded researcher holding four major positions at the university: Regents Professor, American Legion Brain Sciences Chair, McKnight Presidential Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience, and Professor of Neuroscience, Nuerology and Psychiatry. You can learn more about his passion for learning and discovery in this brief biography:

[http://uawards.umn.edu/Award\\_Recipients/Regents\\_Professors\\_Driven\\_To\\_Discover/georgopoulos.htm](http://uawards.umn.edu/Award_Recipients/Regents_Professors_Driven_To_Discover/georgopoulos.htm)  
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The Brain Sciences Center, located at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, is an interdisciplinary research institute, and training center, that focuses on the mechanisms underlying the active, dynamic brain in both health and disease.

Dr. Georgopoulos is not only a very smart researcher, but someone with a passion that he loves to share with others. He speaks often to professional groups, civic organizations and even at public events – sharing new research findings, as well his excitement with the all of the new knowledge that we are discovering about the brain, its functioning, and how we learn.

This year, given our economic situation, MACAE is committed to producing a conference that, more than ever, gives you *essential* information that will *inspire* and *inform* you, ideas you can take with you to improve your work, opportunities to share, network and learn from other adult educators from a wide variety of organizations and settings.

We begin the conference with compelling new information on how we think and learn – what better way to start! Mark your calendars to join us, November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at the University of St. Thomas. Information is being added to the conference web page as details are confirmed. Check it out @

<http://www.mnmacae.org/confer.html>