The University of Iowa has an incredible history of contributions to the field of electroencephalography (EEG). In 1936, UI was one of the first six EEG laboratories to open in the US. Run by Dr. Lee Travis, the laboratory was housed in the departments of Psychology, Psychiatry, and Neurology over the years, but is now a major clinical component of the Department of Neurology. A large number of major figures in the EEG field have trained in the UI EEG laboratory. The University of Iowa Clinical Neurophysiology Laboratory is one of only five labs in the nation that are accredited by ABRET for EEG, Intraoperative Monitoring, and Long Term EEG Monitoring.
Dr. Knott played a major role in early developments in the field. He performed one of the earliest sleep studies using Fourier Transforms for quantitative analysis of the EEG. In 1957, Dr. Knott served as the 11th President of the American EEG Society (AEEGS). The American Society of Electrodiagnostic Technologists now holds the annual “Knott Memorial Lecture Series.”

John Knott is seen examining a single channel EEG in 1936.
Hand-written documentation of the EEG findings of a patient by Dr. Knott. The assessment of this patient was that “epilepsy was a positive diagnosis, with (secondary) neurosis.”
Herbert Jasper was also a student of Lee Travis. He was the 1st and 2nd president of the AEEGS from 1947 to 1948. He created the “10-20 International Electrode Placement,” which is now used across the world as the standard for recording EEGs.
Ernst Niedermeyer worked at Iowa with John Knott until 1965. He later published the most comprehensive EEG book entitled *Electroencephalography: Basic Principles, Clinical Applications and Related Fields*, which has often been referred to as the “Bible of Clinical EEG” since its first edition in 1982. He served as the 45th President of the AEEGS in 1991.
Donald Lindsley was another student of Dr. Travis who received a PhD degree in Psychology at the University of Iowa in 1929. He studied the effect of brainstem mechanisms upon EEG activity, and served as the 19th President of the AEEGS in 1965. Each year since 1979, the Society for Neuroscience confers the “Donald B. Lindsley Prize in Behavioral Science” to the most outstanding PhD thesis in behavioral neuroscience. Dr. Nandakumar Narayanan of the Department of Neurology received the award in 2009.
EFFECT UPON THE EEG OF ACUTE INJURY TO THE BRAIN STEM ACTIVATING SYSTEM

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Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology, 1, 475-486 (1949).

DIFFUSE PROJECTION SYSTEMS: THE INTEGRATIVE ACTION OF THE THALAMIC RETICULAR SYSTEM

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Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology, 1, 405-420 (1949).

Two pioneering research works describing how the brainstem and thalamus affect EEG activity were published by Drs. Lindsley and Jasper in the same journal, the first volume of Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology in 1949.