



ACNP Bulletin

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J. David Jentsch, Ph.D., ACNP Animal Research Committee Co-Chair

Animal Research Committee Blog

In early 2017, the College reactivated the Animal Research Committee, with the charge being to engage, in a supportive way, with other existing scientific societies, advocacy groups and accrediting organizations for which animal research is a central focus, as well as to review and develop ACNP resources that articulate “the positive aspects of the ethical use of animals in research.” The committee initiated, and has maintained, a regular series of communications to respond to these charges in an intelligent, efficient and non-redundant way.

One of the first issues we took up was a unique opportunity to promote the awareness of [Biomedical Research Awareness Day \(BRAD\)](#), the brain child of Logan France DVM, daughter of long-time ACNP member Charles France, Ph.D. Logan developed BRAD as a result of support she received from [Americans for Medical Progress](#), a biomedical research advocacy organization, as part of their [Michael D. Hayre Fellowship Program in Public Outreach](#). BRAD is an annual event, occurring at research-focused institutions and veterinary schools across the country; it is “an initiative committed to educating veterinary students and the public on the importance of biomedical research and the humane use of animals.” Logan [wrote about BRAD events](#) in a blog post published on the [Speaking of Research website](#) last year. Information about BRAD was communicated to the membership in early April, and the committee is continuing to look

for opportunities to bring the ACNP membership into contact with BRAD and similar initiatives to enable your ability to advocate for biomedical research, particularly animal research, in your institution and local community.



As noted above, the committee also includes members who enable interactions with the committees on animal research from other scientific societies (e.g., the Society for Neuroscience Committee on Animal Research and STAR, a coalition of scientific societies organized by the American Psychological Association) as well as having an ACNP member who serves as a delegate to the governing body of the accrediting organization for animal research institutions, [AAALAC International](#). Thus, the committee is poised to represent and communicate the needs and interests of the ACNP membership to these groups.

In the future, we will be communicating with the membership about critical animal research-related issues that affect you and your science. To be effective in this effort, we want to know what matters to you and what issues you think we should focus on to the greatest degree. Additionally, the committee needs to receive the expertise, knowledge and immense experience of the ACNP membership to be fully successful. The Co-Chairs of the committee (Dr. [Sari Izenwasser](#) and Dr. [David Jentsch](#)) welcome you to contact them directly to share your thoughts, feelings and concerns about this committee and how it functions to address issues of concern to the membership. You can also contact [Erin Shaw](#), the Project Manager at ACNP that facilitates the committee's activities.

We look forward to working on behalf of the College to enable the transformative, and in many cases, life-saving research that the membership conducts.