



*American College of Neuropsychopharmacology*

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CONTACT: ACNP, (615) 324-2360  
[acnp@acnp.org](mailto:acnp@acnp.org)

## **Carolyn Rodriguez given the ACNP Eva King-Killam Research Award**

The American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) has named Carolyn Rodriguez, M.D., Ph.D. as one of two winners of the Eva King-Killam Research Award. Dr. Rodriguez directs the Translational Therapeutics /Rodriguez Lab and serves as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Psychiatry and Behavior Sciences, Stanford University, School of Medicine in Stanford, California. The Eva King-Killam award, presented at the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the ACNP in Palm Springs, California, is presented on the basis of outstanding translational research contributions to neuropsychopharmacology.

Dr. Rodriguez is best known for her pioneering work investigating the role of glutamatergic pathways in obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). She conducted the first controlled trial of intravenous ketamine (a glutamate receptor antagonist) in OCD demonstrating its rapid, robust effects in reducing symptoms acutely. A subsequent study found that ketamine infusion was associated with increases in the initially low GABA levels in this population suggesting both a possible mechanism for ketamine's effects and involvement of an additional neurochemical pathway in the pathophysiology of OCD. Dr. Rodriguez is simultaneously pursuing mechanistic and clinical efficacy studies of related glutamatergic compounds (e.g. rapastinel) in OCD. Dr. Rodriguez has also made significant contributions to the study of Hoarding Disorder, particularly in work with public agencies to develop novel interventions to prevent eviction and homelessness in this population.

Dr. Rodriguez has been the recipient of a number of prestigious awards from professional societies, including the AE Bennett Research award from the Society of Biological Psychiatry, the Robins-Guze Award from the American Psychopathological Association (APPA), the Gerald R. Klerman Award Honorable Mention from the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation (BBRF/NARSAD), and the NEATOR Award for top research paper in Neuropsychopharmacology from the ACNP. She has published more than 30 peer-reviewed papers, many in high profile journals, and receives research support from the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), foundations including Robert Wood Johnson and Brain and Behavior Research (NARSAD), and individual donors. Dr. Rodriguez currently serves as Vice Chair for the Council on Research of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and Chair of the ACNP underrepresented task force (URM). She is also active in the mentoring programs of both of these organizations and regularly contributes blog posts to increase public awareness of diagnosis and treatment of OCD and Hoarding Disorder to the Huffington Post.

**Media contact:** Erin Colladay at ([ecolladay@acnp.org](mailto:ecolladay@acnp.org); 615-649-3074)

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ACNP, founded in 1961, is a professional organization of more than 1000 leading scientists, including four Nobel Laureates. The mission of ACNP is to further research and education in neuropsychopharmacology and related fields in the following ways: promoting the interaction of a broad range of scientific disciplines of brain and behavior in order to advance the understanding of prevention and treatment of disease of the nervous system including psychiatric, neurological, behavioral and addictive disorders; encouraging scientists to enter research careers in fields related to these disorders and their treatment; and ensuring the dissemination of relevant scientific advances.