



# ACNP Bulletin

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## What's In a Meeting?

*Randy D. Blakely, Ph.D., Program Committee Chair*

With apologies to Shakespeare, my mind drifted to this question as I prepared for the 2013 Program Committee meeting this past June. Names, to be sure, crossed my mind, as I considered those of the terrific scientists from our College leading panels, as well as those of the outside speakers who bring depth and fresh perspectives to our program. More though, I asked myself why I regularly attend this meeting over the many others whose advertisements fill my email inbox. My response, and I think one shared by most, if not all of my fellow ACNP members, is that the quality of research on display has remained cutting-edge, that the meeting has remained small enough to sustain a feel of camaraderie and collegiality, and that the College continues to promote the involvement of those just now joining the ranks of professional neuropsychopharmacologists. I am certain that such will be the case again in 2013.

Nonetheless, as the submissions rolled in, I could see that, as in the past, the committee's job of selecting Panels and Study Groups for the meeting was going to be difficult. I knew though that with the assistance of my co-chair Pat Levitt and past Program Committee Chair Anissa Abi-Dargham, the more than 30 of our finest scientists who traveled to the meeting, and the skills of a crackerjack staff, that a terrific program would emerge. Ultimately, we arrived at 54 Panels, comprised of 10 Mini-Panels and 44 Full Panels and 5 study-groups. As predicted, many fine applications would not make it into the limited slots available, and we hope many will consider revising and submitting next year.

The 2013 program will be formed by roughly the same percentage of sessions self-designated as basic or clinical sessions, together representing ~40% of our program, with the remaining 60% noted as "integrative". That these titles did not bias the review process is indicated by a comparable success rate among all submission categories (~50%). Panels this year will range from examinations of less-studied brain regions that are now just coming into focus to studies of new animal models of mental illness derived from human genetic variation, to efforts to improve the understanding and implantation of treatments for suicidal ideation, just to name a few. Study Groups, which offer the opportunity for a more "free-wheeling" and open-ended discussion of pressing topics in our field, include discussions centered on the intersection of mental illness and gun control to the use of stimulant drugs for cognitive enhancement (or not).

In the past, our Council's Request for Proposals (RFPs) has seemed to me to have little impact on panel submissions. However, it probably just takes time to get the word out as we more than hit our goal in a number of areas this year, particularly in the number of submissions linked to changes in the adolescent brain and in research on eating disorders. Council is always soliciting input for RFPs so if the program has been giving short shrift to an important topic, please make your voice heard.



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## What's In a Meeting?

(continued from page 1)

Finally, the Hot Topics Session, always a highlight of the meeting, was changed last year to one session of interleaved basic and clinical presentations. Though the feedback from members on the new format was positive, the end result was a session that ran a bit long. As such, this year we will continue the single session format, but introduce a 15 minute break in the middle for a leg stretch and coffee run. Just remember to not wander off or you could miss something special.

We continue to encourage diversity among participants as well as the involvement of speakers who were not part of last year's program. Although women make up only 21% of our membership, this year ~30% of our panelists will be women and 36% of our sessions will be chaired or co-chaired by women. Unfortunately, we cannot note such positive signs with the participation of members from underrepresented groups (American Indians or Alaska Natives, Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders, or individuals with disabilities). Hopefully, the diversity of our College and meeting will increase in the coming years as Council implements strategic efforts in this direction. We needn't wait though for Council to mobilize. Use one of your invitations to invite a member from one of these groups if you can. Also, I encourage those at academic institutions to contact leaders on their campus who direct NIH Graduate or Postdoctoral Training Programs to identify candidates for invitations. Training grants are only awarded if there is a clearly articulated plan to identify and recruit trainees from underrepresented groups and often travel support is available through these training programs. Also recall that our College provides minority travel awards that can support the meeting attendance of these scientists.

Finally, we continue to beat the drum to encourage everyone to make an effort to renew the stock of our college with the best young minds in the field. Our mini-panel sessions offer a key opportunity for junior member participation, and these sessions continue to be well attended. Overall, 21 of our sessions include scientists who are less than 8 years beyond their terminal degree. The Data Blitz session, a spirited, rapid-fire report of highlights from junior member poster presentations, will once again be chaired by Bill Carlezon (and his timer), and provides a key opportunity to spotlight our best young talent. I encourage everyone to come cheer on the attendees, some of whom will no doubt lead the ACNP of the future.

Many thanks to all of the members of the committee for taking time out for this important activity and to the staff of the ACNP, particularly Laura Hill, Traci King and Sarah Timm, for insuring that the meeting went off without a hitch. **We built it, now come!**

## 2013 Travel Awardees Named

*Stephanie O'Malley, Ph.D., Education & Training Committee Chair*

*Scott Rauch, M.D., Education & Training Committee Co-Chair*

The Education & Training Committee is pleased to announce the selection of 55 outstanding early scientists for the 2013 ACNP Travel Award program. We received close to 200 applications for the 55 awards, making it yet another year for tough decisions by committee members. In addition, the ACNP continues to partner with the ADAA (Anxiety Disorders Association of America) to offer invitations to their selected young researchers to attend the meeting.

As a vitally important portion of the travel award program, we strive to assign each awardee two mentors during the week of the meeting. Year after year the committee receives positive feedback from these young scientists who value the experience stating that the mentorship aspect of the travel awardee program was one of the most meaningful parts of the Annual Meeting for them, some of whom will eventually go on to become members of the College. If you would like to serve as a mentor during this year's meeting, please contact Laura Hill at the Executive Office, [lhill@acnp.org](mailto:lhill@acnp.org).

This year's schedule of events for the awardees will consist of a Travel Awardee reception on Saturday evening, December 7th, and a Travel Awardee luncheon on Wednesday, December 11th.

For a complete listing of the awardees, please visit: [www.acnp.org/annualmeeting/travelawards.aspx](http://www.acnp.org/annualmeeting/travelawards.aspx)



## Neuropsychopharmacology Update

William A. Carlezon Jr., Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief

The Editors of *Neuropsychopharmacology*—the Official Journal of the ACNP—are pleased to announce a new program designed to acknowledge the efforts of our top reviewers.

Based on the number of reviews completed within a 1-year period (December 1 through November 30 of each year), each of our “Top 10 Reviewers” will receive a gift card. The individual who reviewed the most papers will receive \$200, whereas those in slots 2-10 will each receive \$100. The first tie-breaker will be the average time (in days) required to complete the reviews (lower is better); if necessary, the second tie-breaker will be the percentage of reviewer invitations accepted versus declined (higher is better).

This program is open to any individual engaged in the process of reviewing manuscripts for *Neuropsychopharmacology* (excluding senior editors who make reviewer assignments), and is not dependent upon membership status. Winners will be announced at the annual meeting each year, beginning in 2013, and the cards will be mailed before the end of the calendar year. Attendance at the conference is not necessary, nor are any funds provided for this purpose. In addition, the names of the Top 10 Reviewers will be listed in an issue of the ACNP Bulletin.

The loyalty and tireless efforts of our reviewers have played an important role in the strengthening of our journal. Our most recent impact factor (2012) is 8.678. We thank all who have reviewed for the journal, as well as those who have submitted manuscripts. We hope that you will continue to consider *Neuropsychopharmacology* as a venue for your finest work.



## Childcare during the Annual Meeting

During the 52nd Annual ACNP Meeting, **KiddieCorp** will provide a children's program. KiddieCorp is in its twenty-seventh year of providing high-quality children's programs and youth services for meetings and special events. They take watching your children very seriously. KiddieCorp has enjoyed long-time partnerships with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Autism Society of America and countless others, which has helped establish KiddieCorp as a premier provider of event children's program services.

Their goal is to provide your children with a program *they* want to attend while providing you with that critical “peace of mind” feeling so *you* can attend your meeting activities.

The children's program is for children ages 6 months through 12 years old and will be located at the Westin Diplomat. Please watch your email for childcare updates and registration information.

## Launching and Maintaining a Career in Mental Health Research

### The Research Career Development Institute for Psychiatry

The 2014 Career Development Institute (CDI) for Psychiatry is now accepting applications. The goal of the CDI is to provide training and mentorship to promising young psychiatric investigators. The CDI program entails a 24-month longitudinal experience and includes a comprehensive program of career and skills self-assessment, individualized career goal setting, a four-day workshop, structured long-distance career mentoring and goal tracking, webinars (online meetings) and tutorials, and a multi-tiered program evaluation. The CDI for Psychiatry Class of 2014 is being recruited now, and participation will begin with acceptance into the program and will include an in-person workshop scheduled for **April 5-9, 2014** in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Applicants to the program should have an MD and/or PhD degree, be in the final year of residency or advanced postdoctoral position, or be at the junior faculty level for less than two years. All applicants are required to submit an application, letter of recommendation, and curriculum vitae via the CDI Website at [www.cdipsych.org](http://www.cdipsych.org). Acceptance to the program will be determined on a competitive basis.

The application deadline is **January 8, 2014**. Your assistance in identifying advanced postdoctoral students, fellows, or junior faculty who would be appropriate participants in the CDI is appreciated. Program details and submission instructions are outlined on the remodeled website, [www.cdipsych.org](http://www.cdipsych.org). Please forward the contact information for those you have identified to our Coordinator, Deborah Spellman, at [spellmand@upmc.edu](mailto:spellmand@upmc.edu).



# ACNP

## 52nd Annual Meeting



## ACNP 52nd Annual Meeting, December 8-12, 2013

As we look forward to welcoming members and their guests to the Westin Diplomat in Hollywood Florida, December 8-12, 2013, please read below for important reminders.

### Registration and Hotel Reservations:

Registration for the 52nd Annual Meeting opened in June. Please register by October 31st; the early discounted registration rates increase by \$50 on November 1st.

Member Registrations are completed on the ACNP website. To access the registration site, members must login to the ACNP website, [www.acnp.org](http://www.acnp.org), select "Annual Meeting" and click "Registration."

Invited Guests will receive a link to the registration site in their invitation letter. Beginning in 2013, guest invitations are inclusive of poster sponsorship.

### Hotel Reservations:

All hotel reservations will be completed on the hotel site. To reserve your hotel room, click on the link contained in your registration confirmation email. The link will take you directly to the hotel website where you will can access the ACNP rooming block and make your reservation directly with the hotel.

The final day for hotel reservation acceptance at ACNP's discounted rates will be October 31; however rooms at these rates are limited and may sell out before the deadline. Please be sure to secure your hotel room early to ensure availability.

### Air Travel for the Annual Meeting

ACNP has partnered with Caldwell Travel, Inc. for airline and car rental reservations. Please contact, Javonna Williams, [javonnaw@travelcaldwell.com](mailto:javonnaw@travelcaldwell.com), or Sue Shapiro [sues@travelcaldwell.com](mailto:sues@travelcaldwell.com) at 615-277-9067, toll-free 800-229-3344, between the hours of 9:00a.m. and 5:30p.m. Central Monday-Friday.

### Invitation Banks

**General Invitation Bank:** Members may request to use for an early career researcher who is within 10 years of their last training or someone with a first time R award or K award. Invitees from this bank may present a poster.

**Diversity Invitation Bank:** Members to offer an additional meeting invitation to a scientist from an underrepresented minority group including Pacific Islander, African-American, Native American, or Hispanic. Members who request the invitation should vouch for the minority status of the scientist they are inviting. Invitees from this bank may present a poster.

Please contact the ACNP Executive Office at 615-324-2360 or [acnp@acnp.org](mailto:acnp@acnp.org) with any questions you may have regarding the meeting.







## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Meet Natalie Marler

I grew up in Memphis, Tennessee and moved to Nashville for college where I studied Human & Organization Development and Cognitive Studies at Vanderbilt University. I began graduate coursework in Human Development Counseling during my senior year. I completed a M.Ed. in Counseling Psychology the following spring. Most weekends I'm usually spending time with my family and friends or working in my yard. I enjoy playing tennis, traveling, and scuba diving. I also enjoy relaxing at home with my rescue pup Graham and Netflix obsession.



I began working for ACNP/PMG in 2011 as a Project Coordinator for the International Marce Society, American Society for Clinical Psychopharmacology, and the International Society for Psychiatric Genetics. I enjoyed helping with the online publication of the *Oral History of Neuropsychopharmacology*; this project led me to become the ACNP Publications Manager and Managing Editor of *Neuropsychopharmacology*. I have cherished the opportunity to work with the Journal's Editors, authors, and reviewers - what an awesome team! It has been so much fun to see the Journal evolve and watch the impact factor increase from 6.685 to 8.678 over the last two years. I am confident the Journal will continue to thrive, and I enjoy being able to participate in the process. Please like ACNP on Facebook to stay informed of all the Journal's latest media pickup and news.

## New Member Nominations and Member to Fellow Promotion Guidelines

The ACNP Executive Office is accepting nominations for 2014 Associate Members, Members, and Member to Fellow promotion applications. The submission links are available on the ACNP website [www.acnp.org/membership/applications.aspx](http://www.acnp.org/membership/applications.aspx). If you are asked to write a letter of nomination, please remember members may only nominate one candidate per category of membership per year. Nomination letters should be submitted online by the nominee.

As a reminder, in 2011, the promotion process was streamlined with the current guidelines weighing participation in the College and career advancement. Criteria for participation in the College include:

- Has attended at least 75% of the Annual Meetings since becoming a member.
- Has presented at 2 meetings within their term as a member. (Poster Presentations Included)
- Is a reviewer in good standing with *Neuropsychopharmacology*.
- Has served on a committee or has volunteered to serve.

In addition, it is no longer necessary for promotion candidates to secure support letters from two ACNP colleagues.

We encourage all eligible Members to apply for a promotion to Fellow. Certain important ACNP committees such as the Nominating Committee and Ethics Committee are restricted to participation by Fellows only, and of course, only Fellows are eligible to be elected to Council. Becoming a Fellow provides both the recognition you deserve for your service to the College as well as the opportunity to participate in these leadership positions. Please consider submitting your application by the **September 18th deadline**.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Laura Hill at [lhill@acnp.org](mailto:lhill@acnp.org).



## ASSOCIATE & NEW MEMBER CONNECTION

### Insights on ACNP Membership: An Interview with Eric Nestler

*Lisa M. Monteggia, Ph.D., Membership Advisory Task Force Co-Chair*

**LMM: What are common reasons why nominees for ACNP membership are not successful?**

EJN: I would broadly say there are two categories, candidate specific and political sphere reasons.

Candidate specific. The qualifications of an applicant really matter. This includes things such as a person's rank at a university or medical school and whether they are tenured or tenure-track. Another critical criterion is the number and quality of a candidate's publications, which has tremendous weight. Still another component is grant support. Pretty much every successful academic candidate for full membership has independent NIH grant support. The quality of a candidate's letters of nomination is also important. The strength and persuasiveness of the nominating letters are something the committee takes into serious consideration.

Political sphere: A candidate may have difficulty obtaining membership without strong ACNP support at their home institution. This can include the difficulty in getting strong nominating letters from members that hold sway. This is one reason why it is important for prospective candidates to attend the annual meeting and network, so that they can line up nominators as well as have a venue to present their work so people get to know them. Another example of the impact of the political sphere is when someone on the membership committee may be at odds with a candidate's colleagues at work. One needs a strong advocate on the membership committee or at least someone who would counter unfair political comments. Thankfully, the ACNP membership committee is far less political than it used to be.



*Eric J. Nestler*



*Lisa M. Monteggia*

**LMM: I have heard examples of very established investigators with strong track records not being selected for ACNP membership. Any thoughts as to why?**

EJN: A very strong academic scientist who has never been to an ACNP annual meeting, or only very rarely, might not get elected to the College. This is an organization that values participation and wants people who will be active within the College. In addition, many strong candidates are not elected simply because of the very limited number of slots available each year, which is specified by the ACNP's bylaws.

**LMM: How are women and minorities factored into selection for ACNP membership?**

EJN: Every time that Council evaluates the results of the membership or program committee deliberations, data on women and minorities are examined. It is very unusual for Council to change a committee's decision; most of the work is usually done by working with the committees. The term I would use is "affirmative attention"; there are no numbers set aside for any category but sex and race/ethnicity are given significant consideration. In regards to the membership committee, the women that are accepted are every bit as good as the men. If two candidates are equivalent, the benefit can be given to women but that is at the discretion of the membership committee. The same is true for under-represented minorities. We are doing significantly better in recruiting more women to the College and having them play more prominent roles in our annual meeting program. By contrast, we have a long way to go to increase the membership and participation of minority group members; in fact, the College recently appointed a task force to examine this challenge.



## ASSOCIATE & NEW MEMBER CONNECTION

### **LMM: How does a junior scientist interested in ACNP membership know when to apply?**

EJN: The only thing certain is: If you don't apply, you are guaranteed not to get in! People who have applied several times do not have lessened chances of being elected in later years. There is no negative impact in any manner in reapplying. It is always a good idea to talk to current members who might be your nominators and get their thoughts on your membership package, but err on the side of applying rather than not applying.

### **LMM: What recent initiatives has ACNP implemented regarding membership?**

EJN: There is, or will be soon, a new page on the ACNP website where individuals can get information describing the membership process. This page will be available to the general public. Another initiative is for individuals who don't know an ACNP member to contact the College to discuss this issue. The College will then contact people in the candidate's area of research and ask if someone may be interested in talking to the prospective member and perhaps sponsoring them.

### **LMM: A topic that often causes confusion to prospective members is how many members can be accepted each year. How is this decided?**

EJN: As stated earlier, the number of slots is strictly capped by the College bylaws. The ACNP membership has consistently decided to roughly maintain the current size of the College, which means that the number of new members each year equals the number of current members who passed away or retired (changed to emeritus status) the prior year, plus some small increment. In many years, the number of qualified candidates far exceeds the number of slots available. To help alleviate this bottleneck, the ACNP has now made it easier for members to change to emeritus status, which opens up additional slots for new members. Membership has recently approved Council recommendations to amend the bylaws to add a handful of additional slots (and thus tolerate a slightly larger increase in College membership). We are hopeful that changes such as these will alleviate the membership bottleneck.

### **LMM: What do you view as the most significant reason to join ACNP?**

EJN: The biggest reason to join ACNP is networking. There is not a better meeting for junior people to meet leaders in the field, present data, and establish collaborations. This meeting is great for junior faculty as well as postdoctoral fellows. In fact, ACNP is a meeting that some department Chairs attend to recruit talented individuals!

### **LMM: Do you have any general advice about the ACNP membership application process?**

EJN: As a person strengthens their application for membership, he or she should try to get a panel accepted as Chair/Co-Chair, give a talk in a panel, and if all else fails submit an abstract. The person should also offer to review for *Neuropsychopharmacology*. All of this will lay the ground work for several strong people in the field to serve as nominators. "Apply rather than not apply." Do not take it personally if you are not accepted on your initial attempt, there is a bottleneck but there is fluidity so just keep applying. Do not get mad or devastated, simply try again. If you like the meeting just be persistent and go for it in terms of applying for membership. Do not take no for an answer. There is no jeopardy for applying many times, if anything you prime yourself and get known to the committee so that the next year you come up you will be better known. The only way to be a member is to apply.

### **Dates to Remember**

August 14th	Poster abstract submission deadline
September 18th	Deadline for Membership Nominations/Promotions
October 31st	2013 Meeting Pre-Registration Deadline; fees increase by \$50
October 31st	2013 Annual Meeting Hotel Reservation Deadline

**ACNP EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

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## Upcoming Meetings

**International World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics**

October 17-21, 2013

Seaport Hotel & World Trade Center  
Boston, Massachusetts, USA

[www.ispg.net](http://www.ispg.net)

**Perinatal Mental Health Conference**

November 6-8, 2013

Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers  
Chicago, Illinois, USA

[www.parthenonmanagementgroup.com](http://www.parthenonmanagementgroup.com)

**NAMI**

Inspiring Hope Through Research

November 14, 2013

Washington, DC, USA

[www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)

**ACNP Annual Meeting**

December 8-12, 2013

The Westin Diplomat  
Hollywood, Florida, USA

[www.acnp.org](http://www.acnp.org)

**ISCTM Annual Meeting**

February 18-20, 2014

Fairmont Hotel  
Washington, DC, USA

[www.isctm.org](http://www.isctm.org)

**Training in Neurotherapeutics Discovery & Development for Academic Scientists**

February 19-22, 2014

Bethesda North Marriott Hotel  
Bethesda, Maryland, USA

[www.neurotherapeuticscourse.org/](http://www.neurotherapeuticscourse.org/)

**ADAA 2014 Annual Conference**

March 27-30, 2014

Chicago Marriott Downtown  
Chicago, Illinois, USA

[www.adaa.org/conference](http://www.adaa.org/conference)

**4th Biennial Schizophrenia International Research Society Conference**

April 5-9, 2014

Firenze Fiera Congress Center  
Florence, Italy

[www.schizophreniaconference.org](http://www.schizophreniaconference.org)

**[www.acnp.org](http://www.acnp.org)**

To submit items to the Bulletin, please e-mail Laura Hill at [lhill@acnp.org](mailto:lhill@acnp.org)