



ACNP Bulletin

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Presidential Plenaries Reveal the Promise of the BRAIN Initiative and Future Directions for Discovery and Treatment Development

Peter Kalivas, Ph.D.



The Presidential Distinguished Lecture and the President's Plenary Symposium this year highlight the importance of and recent advances in brain mapping and circuitry manipulation that are forming the needed knowledge base for curing behavioral and cognitive neuropsychiatric diseases. Recognizing the critical importance of understanding the wiring and circuitry function of the brain is embodied in the BRAIN (Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies) Initiative advanced by President Obama on April 2, 2013. Although the current BRAIN Initiative is a humble beginning for a project, it will ultimately need to dwarf the previous "Genome Project" or the ongoing "War on Cancer" to be successful. This year the ACNP recognizes the promise of this initiative in advancing our field towards enduring cures for neuropsychiatric disorders. All of the speakers are pioneers in the development or application of new technologies that allow us to more accurately visualize and manipulate brain physiology and pathophysiology.

President's Distinguished Lecture 2014

Dr. Miguel Nicolelis from Duke University will provide The Presidential Distinguished Lecture. Dr. Nicolelis is a Professor of Neuroscience and co-Director of the Duke Center for Neuroengineering. He is a member of the French and Brazilian Academies of Science and co-founder and director of the Edmond and Lily Safra International Institute of Neuroscience. Dr. Nicolelis has dedicated his career to understanding how the brains of behaving animals encode motor and sensory information, and has advanced brain-machine interfaces as neuroprosthetic devices with promise to treat paralysis, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy and obsessive-compulsive disorders. Mostly recently, you may have seen the robotic exoskeleton designed and built by Dr. Nicolelis that permitted a paraplegic man to kick the opening ball at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. He is a founder and leader in the world-wide effort to translate neuronal activity into neuroprosthetic devices that, within the decade, promise to improve the lives of individuals suffering from compromised or damaged sensory-motor integration.

Dr. Nicolelis lecture is titled "**Brain-Machine Interfaces: Past, Present and Future,**" and is scheduled to take place on **Monday, December 8th at 1:30 PM.**

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Presidential Plenaries

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President's Plenary Symposium 2014

The four plenary lectures planned for this year's ACNP Annual Meeting are designed to explore new technical advances in basic neuropsychiatric research. The speakers will take the audience from advances in structural neurobiology to how this knowledge translates into novel techniques for visualizing, mapping and ultimately manipulating brain function and disease.

Dr. Xiaowei Zhuang (Professor of Biology and Physics, Harvard University) is a biophysicist recognized for developing and applying advanced optical imaging techniques for discovering novel subcellular structures. In her presentation she will describe how STORM (Stochastic Optical Reconstruction Microscopy) is uncovering neuronal intracellular organization and the implications of this cellular structure in brain function. Dr. Zhuang is followed by **Dr. Karl Deisseroth (Professor of Bioengineering and of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University)**. Dr. Deisseroth has achieved world-wide recognition for his development of optogenetic techniques into a commonly applied technique for understanding how brain circuits regulate normal and pathological behavior. Most recently he has pioneered the CLARITY technique. CLARITY produces a completely transparent brain that can be labeled with selective molecular markers for brain circuits and promises unprecedented visualization of functional brain circuits. How optogenetics and DREADDs (Designer Receptors Exclusively Activated by Designer Drugs) are being applied to regulate behavior and cognition will be presented by **Dr. Gary Aston-Jones (Professor of Neuroscience, Medical University of South Carolina)**. He will highlight how applying these two novel approaches in tandem to selectively manipulate brain circuits involved in regulating attentional processing and reward, reveals various advantages to each technique and important insights into circuitry function. He will also describe the strong translational capabilities of the DREADD approach to regulate impaired circuits in neuropsychiatric disease. **Dr. Suzanne Haber (Professor of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neurobiology and Anatomy, Rochester University)** will complete the symposium by describing her discoveries on prefrontal cortical circuitry and their relevance to neuropsychiatric disease. Dr. Haber has conducted unique studies using imaging technologies to translate between nonhuman primates and humans. By linking her work with the Human Connectome Project she provides insight into how cortical brain circuits are affected by the therapeutic use surface and deep brain stimulation.

The President's Plenary Symposium is titled "**The BRAIN Initiative: Visualizing, Mapping and Controlling Brain Function**" and is scheduled to take place on **Monday, December 8th from 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM**.

David Rubinow Appointment as Secretary

Alan Frazer's election to become President-elect of ACNP in December, 2014 means that he will be vacating his office as Secretary with one year left in his term. In accord with Article I, Paragraph 8 of the ACNP Bylaws, Council took action in its summer meeting to appoint a replacement to serve out that one year. David Rubinow will assume the office of Secretary at the close of the business meeting in December. Although Dr. Rubinow's appointment is only to serve out the one remaining year of Dr. Frazer's term, he will be eligible to stand for election to that position in the normal election cycle next year.





Changes to the *Neuropsychopharmacology* Team of Senior Editors

Over the past year, there have been some changes to the team of Associate Editors at *Neuropsychopharmacology* (NPP). Associate Editors manage the review process for manuscripts in their area of specialization and make recommendations to the Editor-in-Chief.



Andrew Miller, M.D.

In 2013, long-time Associate Editor Andrew Miller, M.D., left NPP to take on a role as a senior editor at *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity*. “Andy was a model of efficiency,” said current Editor-in-Chief Bill Carlezon, “and his thoughtfulness and humor made it a pleasure to work with him.” Dr. Miller’s departure created a slot that was filled by Gerard “Jerry” Sanacora, M.D., Ph.D., who brings expertise in the diagnosis, treatment, and study of psychiatric illness.



Gerard “Jerry” Sanacora, M.D., Ph.D.



Ariel Deutch, Ph.D.

More recently, Ariel Deutch, Ph.D., rotated out of his role as Associate Editor after serving more than 8 years. “Ariel was an unheralded hero of the journal during my tenure as editor, and a behind-the-scenes influence that helped me keep the journal on an even keel for those 6 years,” said Jim Meador-Woodruff, who served as Editor-in-Chief from 2006-2012. Dr. Deutch’s departure created a slot that was filled by Sheena Josselyn, Ph.D., who brings expertise in the neurobiology of learning and memory, stress, and addiction.



Sheena Josselyn, Ph.D.

“We can’t replace Andy or Ariel because of who they are and all they’ve done for the journal, but we are delighted that Jerry and Sheena have agreed to join our team,” said Carlezon. “They are recognized as leaders in the field, and give us new strengths.”

Senior editors are appointed as needed by the Editor-in-Chief and are ACNP members who have a track record of exceptional commitment to the journal, including service as reviewers and/or Editorial Board Members. There are also annual changes in the Editorial Board, which is considered a group of special advisors to the senior editors, to ensure that the journal stays current during a time of rapid advances in psychiatry. “Some transition in these roles is both expected and healthy,” said Carlezon. “It offers a break after long periods of dedicated service and helps us make timely and expert decisions on the types of manuscripts that we are receiving now, as well as those that we anticipate receiving in the future.”

Childcare During the Annual Meeting

During the 53rd Annual ACNP Meeting, **KiddieCorp** will again provide a children's program. KiddieCorp is in its twenty-eighth 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 JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.kiddiecorp.com/acnpkids.htm>



ASSOCIATE & NEW MEMBER CONNECTION

Summary of ACNP 2014 Surveys

Daniel J. Mueller (Müller), M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Toronto

(PLEASE NOTE: The below summary is based only on associate member survey results and past travel award recipient survey results from early 2014.)

Sample Demographics

Surveys were sent via email invitation link to Associate Members and Past Travel Awardees who attended one of more of the past three meetings. A total of 348 people responded, representing 46% of the targeted Past Travel Awardees (327 out of 713) and 64% of Associate Members (21 out of 33). Of the 1295 non-members invited, 191 (15%) completed the survey. For the entire sample of respondents, 46.8% were female and 16.6% identified themselves as members of an underrepresented minority group. 50% of the sample pool belonged to less than 3 professional organizations, 42% belonged to 4-6 professional organizations, and 7% belonged to greater than 6 organizations. 45% of the sample pool attended 1-2 meetings annually, 39% attended 3, 10% attended 4, and 6% attended 5-6 meetings. The majority of the sample pool was under 45 (67%), had children (72%), and had a partner/spouse who did not work fulltime (72%). Of those with children, 48% bring their child/children to the annual meeting (every time or sometimes).



Logistics for Annual Meeting

43% rated the location of the meeting as a determinant in their attendance. This was a 3% increase from the 2013 results. Interest in a potential program to match meeting attendees who might share the cost of the hotel room was low in both groups (29% of Associate Members and 30% of Past Travel Awardees). Of those with children, 4.6% said that subsidized childcare services would impact their decision to bring their child/children.

Associate Members' Feedback

The 2014 survey response rate for Associate Members decreased from 68% last year to 64% this year. Respondents included 6 women and 15 men. 62% were PhDs, 19% were MDs, and 19% had both MD&PhD degrees. 77% have a spouse or partner who works full time. 10% had applied for associate membership more than once before it was granted. The majority of Associate Members (57%) indicated that the price of annual ACNP dues do not influence their desire to maintain or acquire full membership.

With regard to perceptions about the College, 55% rated ACNP as "high" or "very high" on being "welcoming" to potential new members, 75% indicated they found ACNP staff "high" or "very high" on a scale rating "ease of contacting" when they had questions about the organization, and 66% endorsed a "high" or "very high" rating on "feeling comfortable asking more senior members about membership and participation." Many felt neutral or indifferent about these items, and relatively few endorsed negative views, i.e., only 10% felt the college was not welcoming, 10% found it not easy to contact ACNP with questions, and 15% did not feel comfortable reaching out to more senior members with queries about the college. 71% say they visited the ACNP website to address questions (29% were indifferent). When asked if their academic institution placed high value on ACNP membership status when evaluating faculty, 52% responded affirmatively.

When asked to identify things that would make ACNP membership more appealing or valuable, over half (52%) of this group endorsed "not making attendance mandatory," with a close second being "decreased dues and meeting registration cost," endorsed by 47% of Associate Members.



ASSOCIATE & NEW MEMBER CONNECTION

Summary of ACNP 2014 Surveys

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The majority of Associate Members (67%) were aware of the work of the Membership Advisory Task Force. With regard to projecting their trajectories toward full membership, 95% intend to apply for ACNP full membership in the future. While only 26% indicated they anticipated achieving full membership with the first application attempt, the majority (79%) of Associate Members indicated they do anticipate they will eventually be successful in becoming regular members (21% remained unsure). When asked why they have not yet applied for full membership, nearly all respondents indicated they felt they were not confident that they would be accepted. When asked what interests/needs/desires they have within the context of ACNP, the most-often endorsed item was “*access to latest/most exciting research methods or findings*” (81% of the group), followed by “*access with senior/accomplished researchers for 1 on 1 interaction*” and “*networking for potential scientific collaboration*” (71% of the group for both responses). They also indicated a desire for “*networking for career/professional development*” (62% of the group). Current membership dues were perceived to *be reasonable* by 77% of the associate membership.

Past Travel Awardees' Feedback

Data from 327 Past Travel Awardees is summarized here. These include 55% PhDs, 22% MDs, and 23% with combined MD&PhD degrees. Data characterizing their sense of feeling welcomed was approximately 10% higher than the Associate Member respondents. Data for their feelings on easily able to contact ACNP or senior members with questions was very similar to that of the Associate Member respondents. 58% of Past Travel Awardees knew about the Membership Advisory Task force.

40% of individuals from this group had applied for membership in the past. When asked about reasons they had not yet applied, 60% reported that they were not confident they would be accepted, 30% *also* indicated they could not commit to attending meetings every year, and 29% indicated they were unsure of the requirements. There were 18% who indicated they do not ever intend to apply in the future. The survey showed that 53% of the group believed they will eventually achieve full membership status even if it requires several rounds (37% remained unsure). High value placed on ACNP membership for faculty evaluation and promotion within their academic institution was endorsed by 54% of Past Travel Awardees.

Networking for potential scientific collaboration and mentorship were the most popularly endorsed areas of interest/need by the Past Travel Awardees (67% of the group). While 34% of this group also endorsed a desire for a more transparent process for successful membership application, the most popular item for increasing the value of the College to Past Travel Awardees was “*decreased dues and meeting registration cost*” (reported by 39% of the group) as well as “*not making attendance mandatory*” (reported by 37% of the group). A slight majority of Past Travel Awardees (55%) indicated that the cost of the hotel did not affect their decision to attend the meeting, and 59% also indicated the cost of registration did not influence their attendance.

Summary

Overall most respondents were positive about the value of ACNP membership, with high costs and an unpredictable standard for achieving membership identified as notable negatives. Meeting attendees consistently identify the opportunities for networking and exposure to the latest, exciting research as attractions of the College. Almost all of the Associate Members (95%) intend to seek full membership. The need for reduced costs (meetings and dues) and removal of mandatory meeting attendance were identified by a majority of Associate Members and Past Travel Awardees as things that would make membership more appealing.



Staff Spotlight

Meet the ACNP Member Services Manager

Beth Miller joined the ACNP team in January 2014 working part-time as the staff liaison to the Honoring Awards, Publications, Public Information Committees, as well as assisting with the Membership and Liaison Committees.

Beth's career began in her home state of Louisiana as a television news reporter and producer. Almost immediately she found that listening to the people whose stories she told was her passion; but, the often chaotic and high-pressure demands of a TV journalist were not. It was then that she made a transition into the 9 to 5 world of finance and found, once again, that hearing what her clients had to say (rather than stock-picking techniques) was what drove her.



With the birth of her children came yet another career change for Beth (and she thought the demands of a news reporter were high-pressure and chaotic!). Now that her youngest has started school, her mission is to find professional and personal balance—working closely with ACNP's valued members and being the attentive wife and mom her family needs.

In their spare time, Beth and her husband have made it their mission to experience every Nashville eatery that Music City has to offer. From the greasiest diners to the top-rated restaurants...they don't discriminate! Cheering for their Tennessee Titans is a treasured pastime, and of course carting her kiddos to karate, ballet, baseball, piano, playdates and school functions is a fun-filled, full-time job of its own...

2014 Travel Awardees Named

Scott Rauch, M.D., Education & Training Committee Chair

Kathleen Merikangas, Ph.D., Education & Training Committee Co-Chair

The Education & Training Committee is pleased to announce the selection of 58 outstanding scientists for the 2014 ACNP Travel Award program. We received nearly 300 applications for the 58 awards, making this yet another year for difficult decisions by the committee. 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 a mentor 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 is one of the most meaningful parts of the Annual Meeting for them. The Travel Award program remains a key pipeline for the College, as it brings the best and brightest up and coming scientists in the field to participate in the Annual Meeting, some of whom will eventually go on to become members. If you would like to serve as a mentor during this year's meeting, please contact Kelly Phy at the Executive Office, acnp@acnp.org.

This year's schedule of events for the awardees will include a Travel Awardee reception on Saturday evening, December 6th, and a Travel Awardee luncheon on Wednesday, December 10th.

For a complete listing of the awardees, please visit: www.acnp.org/annualmeeting/travelawards.aspx



ACNP 53rd Annual Meeting, December 7-11, 2014

As we look forward to welcoming members and their guests to the JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge in Phoenix Arizona, please read below for important reminders.

Registration:

Registration for the 53rd 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 registration site, visit the ACNP website, www.acnp.org, select "Annual Meeting," click "Registration" and login using your email and ACNP password.

Invited Guests will receive a link to the registration site in their invitation letter. 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 travel. Please contact, Javonna Williams, javonnaw@travelcaldwell.com, or Sue Shapiro sues@travelcaldwell.com or toll-free 800-229-3344.

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 may 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 with any questions you may have regarding the meeting.

**ACNP EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

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**To submit items to the Bulletin,
please e-mail Laura Hill at lhill@acnp.org**

Upcoming Meetings**International Marcé Society Biennial Scientific Meeting**

September 10-12, 2014
Swansea University
Wales, United Kingdom
www.swansea.ac.uk/marce

The 2nd International Conference of OTIS – ENTIS

September 19-21, 2014
The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, Canada
www.mothertobaby.org

XXIInd Word Congress of Psychiatric Genetics

October 12-16, 2014
Copenhagen, Denmark
www.ispg.net

SIRS Regional Meeting - South America

December 1-2, 2014
Buenos Aires, Argentina
sirssouthamerica.org

ACNP Annual Meeting

December 7-11, 2014
JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort
Phoenix, Arizona, USA
www.acnp.org

The Psychiatric Research Society 53rd Annual Meeting

February 4-7, 2015
Hotel Park City
Park City, Utah, USA
www.psychiatricresearchsociety.org

11th International Clinical Neurology and Neurophysiology Update Conference 2015

February 17-18, 2015
Tel Aviv, Israel
www.isas.co.il/neurophysiology2015

New Member Nomination Policy Change

In a 2013 policy change decision, Council approved a new policy allowing members to write one additional letter of nomination if the nominee is a woman or a minority defined as; African American, Hispanic, Native American, or U.S. Pacific Islander.

Nomination letter reminders:

1. Eligible candidates in the Member category must have at least two letters of nomination by either two Fellows; or one Fellow and one Member; or three Members. A third letter of nomination is only permitted when all three nominators hold Member status in the College. Eligible candidates in the Associate Member category need only two letters from Members or Fellows in any combination.
2. Each ACNP member may nominate only one candidate, per category of membership, per year (unless the above approved policy change is applicable).
3. No more than one nominator can be from the same institution as the candidate.

Member Nominations and Promotions

Nomination materials for new Member, Associate Member, and Fellow promotion candidates are available under the Membership tab on the ACNP website at www.acnp.org. The submission site is now open. All nominations and applications must be received by September 18, 2014. Please contact the Executive Office with questions.

Dates to Remember

August 14th	Poster abstract submission deadline
September 18th	Deadline for Membership Nominations/Promotions
October 31st	2014 Meeting Pre-Registration Deadline; fees increase by \$50
October 31st	2014 Annual Meeting Hotel Reservation Deadline