ACNP President’s Letter 2014
Peter W. Kalivas, Ph.D.

A Multi-Generational Mission

I am humbled to serve as president of the ACNP, an organization that has been, for many of us, a cornerstone in our careers. I am especially grateful to the immediate past presidents, councils and ACNP staff who have worked diligently in a time of constrained growth in our profession to bring the College greater efficiency in governance and financial stability. Our committee structure is simplified and we have a stable financial stream that is independent of potential ethical confounds. We have evolved a higher impact journal structure that promotes our primary organizational goal of facilitating neuroscience and clinical discovery. We have much to celebrate. However, we have entered an era of generational transition in our organization, and must develop mechanisms to actualize the ideals and goals of the immediate and future generations of ACNP scientists and clinicians. To not do so jeopardizes the value of the ACNP as a key facilitator and mentor in the evolution of our field. Below I outline three multi-generational concerns that are among the issues I will engage as your President.

Membership Demographics and Diversity

We have women, minority and membership task forces that have done outstanding jobs of developing and interpreting the databases that validate what has been obvious since I became a member of the ACNP in 1990: we need to increase gender balance and minority membership. The problem is compounded by the increasing age of attaining membership. Our task forces have recommended, and council has put into place, mechanisms supporting increased communication on membership diversity, such as the Women’s Lunch. However, we must develop proactive mechanisms to increase diversity in our membership and program. We are not nominating enough women and minority candidates for membership. At our recent annual meeting council voted to open the nomination procedure to facilitate nominating women and minorities for new membership. It is now up to you, the membership, to identify and nominate qualified individuals. Also, participation in the ACNP annual program is the very best mechanism for attracting national talent into our organization, and diversity imbalance in program composition constricts membership diversity in our future. As we develop the program for next year we will emphasize the importance of providing the already more diverse next generation of scientists and clinicians opportunities to speak in our annual program.
Colonizing the Moons of Saturn and ACNP Advocacy

For too long the sociology of neuroscience discovery has moved towards ‘stock market-like’ quick returns on investment. This is reflected in how thoroughly we have adopted an emphasis on rapidly translating discovery into treatment, sometimes at the expense of developing the fundamental knowledge needed to accurately predict new treatments. An open pipeline from ‘bench to beside’ is critical and to be applauded. However, to think that our current knowledge of brain function places us on the verge of curing neuropsychiatric disorders is akin to believing that we can get in the space shuttle and colonize the moons of Saturn. As a civilization, we simply do not have the technology or understanding of brain physiology to cure, and we cannot allow the focus of our national research effort to deviate too far from the foundation-building research and development enterprises generating this knowledge. The President’s BRAIN initiative acknowledges that understanding and curing diseases of the brain requires stable, generational investments in new technology and discovery. In acknowledgement of the need for a multi-generational effort to understand the brain in the service of curing neuropsychiatric diseases, we will initiate targeted investments in advocacy to government and disease-based advocacy groups. We are a small organization relative to SFN or APA and will build our advocacy programs in part by partnering with these larger organizations. Our primary asset is the national quality and reputations of our membership who can expertly discuss the current state of knowledge, and convincingly deliver assurances that through continued research we will ultimately cure neuropsychiatric diseases. Thus, we can provide needed expertise to other organizations that target congressional representatives and local interest groups.

Optimism

All effective organizations proactively evolve toward a vision of the future. For over 50 years, the ACNP has effectively ridden and facilitated the waves of social change and scientific development by creating a family for each emerging generation of scientist and clinician. However, at no time in my career has concern for our future been so palpable. The recent recession has created a national bunker mentality and initiated changes in the funding patterns and the structure of academic medicine. Change creates opportunity, and opportunities are emerging around us thanks to research and development in our field bringing astonishing new technologies for visualizing and manipulating brain function. I am excited about the possibilities in our collective professional futures. By providing adaptive strategies for professional challenges, the ACNP is an exemplar of professional fortitude. Through exhibiting and mentoring scientific excellence our annual meeting is a time when we transform career concerns into action plans and rekindle optimism in the discoveries we are about to make.
Starbucks Coffee and McDonald’s Prices

Ronnie Wilkins, Ed.D., CAE, ACNP Executive Director

Every year as I read the comments of members and meeting attendees that are made on the Annual Meeting Evaluation Survey I know that I will see a few comments (usually very few) about the quality of the continental breakfast served each day at the meeting. In thinking about these comments it occurred to me that you might be interested in knowing some of the costs of the annual meeting, how those costs affect the registration fee, and how we try to keep those costs, and the resulting registration fee, as low as possible. What we try to do is buy Starbucks coffee at McDonald’s prices. I just wish we could actually do that!

First, you might be surprised to know that we spend more on food and beverage for the annual meeting than on any other single expense. A few years ago that number was around a half-million dollars for the meeting. Now, it has risen to more than $625,000. That is far more than we spend for audio-visual support, travel expenses for travel awardees and non-member speakers, labor costs or any other expense. In fact, food and beverage accounts for roughly half of our total annual meeting expenses. On a per person basis, the cost of food and beverage, in recent years, has averaged just a little under $350 per attendee, while the total cost of the meeting on a per attendee basis has been between $750 and $800 per person.

Another salient feature of our food and beverage cost is that it is the expense that can most easily and quickly be reduced if necessary in order to balance our budget. Many of the other expenses of the meeting cannot be reduced in any significant way without sacrificing aspects of the meeting that are of central importance. But cutting the amount we spend on a lunch or a breakfast, or even cutting out a lunch entirely, is a solution that is readily available to us.

With our registration fees ranging from $200 for trainees and $400 for emeritus members to $550 for regular members and $800 for non-members, it is obvious that we don’t fully cover the cost of the meeting through registration fees. In recent years registration fees have covered from two-thirds to three-fourths of the total cost of the meeting. We have covered the remaining cost through corporate support and grants and other surplus funds from the College.

As long as we can keep our costs under control and as long as we can continue to fund from one-fourth to one-third of the total meeting cost from other sources then we can keep our relatively low registration fees. That is our goal and we work hard to try to accomplish it. Unfortunately, accommodating everyone’s wish for a more substantial breakfast, for more variety, or for continual coffee service throughout the day would run cost up faster than you would imagine. For example, we recently calculated the cost of coffee (one of my personal pet peeves) provided during the meeting and found that it is nearly $3,000 for every hour that it is available. Amazing, but true!

Having said all the above, please know that we work very hard to keep costs as low as possible. Second, we look for every opportunity to generate other income for the College that can be used to help cover the cost of the meeting. Finally, if we can figure out a way to offer a better breakfast that will not result in increasing your registration fees I will be the first in line for it!

Neuropsychopharmacology Reviewers

New Members and Associate Members who would like to be added to the reviewer pool for Neuropsychopharmacology should create a profile on the NPG (Nature Publishing Group) site at www.nature.com/npp. On your personal profile check yes to the query, “Do we have the permission to contact you by email regarding editorial matters (such as peer-reviewing) or to help improve our services to authors and referees?” and your name will be added to the reviewer pool. Please contact Natalie Marler, NPP Managing Editor, nmarler@acnp.org with questions.
2013 ACNP Career Development Session

_Erika Forbes, Ph.D._

For the third year, the Membership Advisory Task Force sponsored a career development panel discussion at the ACNP annual meeting. The topic of the panel discussion was obtaining funding in today’s challenging climate. The panelists were Drs. Linda Brady, Dennis Charney, Maurizio Fava, Steven Hyman, and Bita Moghaddam. These panelists offered a range of perspectives, including those of funding organizations, university administration, and principal investigators. The discussion was lively and addressed a variety of topics related to funding and career development, with questions both submitted in advance and posed informally during the session. In general, panelists urged early-career scientists to be persistent and practical when setting goals, obtaining positions, and applying for funding. The issues addressed during the discussion ranged from career-focused to funding-focused. Career issues included how to balance clinical and scientific efforts; how to develop collaborations with senior colleagues; whether MDs should consider hard-funded positions; and how to obtain a faculty position, negotiate for resources, and succeed once in the position. Funding questions included how to plan and pace grant submissions to ensure adequate salary coverage over time; how to obtain funding for innovative ideas; and how to balance striving for breakthroughs with maintaining stable funding. Panelists urged participants to become familiar with the variety of possible funding sources, learn about their specific priorities (e.g., emphasis on dramatic breakthroughs vs. more carefully grounded progress), and develop relationships with program representatives who can offer feedback on potential application topics. To face the challenges of this difficult funding period, panelists emphasized the value of planning career decisions carefully and managing effort strategically in order to maintain a successful scientific career. In all, the panel was well attended and well received, providing practical and inspiring advice for both junior and more established scientists.

2014 New Associate Members

Congratulations and welcome to the 26 new Associate Members selected at the 52nd Annual Meeting in Hollywood Florida! They are:

- Susanne Ahmari
- Ryan Bachtell
- Debra Bangasser
- Kristen Brennand
- Jennifer Britton
- Melissa Brotman
- Pietro Cottone
- Rita Cowell
- Susan Ferguson
- Jamie Feusner
- Gabriella Gobbi
- Benjamin Hayden
- Matthew Hill
- Katherine Karlsogdt
- Thomas Kash
- Chitra Mandyam
- Rachel Marsh
- Eric Morrow
- James Murrough
- Sachin Patel
- Panos Roussos
- Scott Schobel
- Srijan Sen
- Kay Tye
- Aristotle Vineskos
- Daniel Wolf

2013 Associate Member Reception
The 2014 Membership Advisory Task Force members are listed below. They look forward to your feedback and suggestions.

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2013 and 2014 ACNP Travel Award Program

The 2013 ACNP Annual Meeting brought another outstanding class of 55 travel awardees to the meeting. The busy week of scientific presentations and sessions began Saturday evening with a Travel Awardee reception and poster session. Travel awardees were again able to present their research to mentors and ACNP leadership in a smaller more intimate setting, affording them the opportunity to make connections early and setting the stage for an outstanding Annual Meeting experience. The awardees also attended a luncheon later in the week where they heard from Dr. Marina Picciotto who reflected on her career path. This combination of unique experiences for the awardees, at an exceptional scientific conference, is what enables the College to capture the best of the future of neuropsychopharmacology.

The 2014 Travel Award guidelines will soon be posted on the ACNP website. Please visit www.acnp.org/annualmeeting/travelawards.aspx for more information on this opportunity for a young investigator at your institution. For questions, please contact Kelly Phy in the Executive Office: acnp@acnp.org.
Annual Meeting 2013

More Annual Meeting photos are available on the members’ only section of the ACNP website under the Annual Meeting tab.
The 2013 Honorific Awards were presented by Awards Committee chairman, Dr. John Krystal, at the President’s Plenary on Monday, December 9th during the Annual Meeting in Florida.

Daniel H. Efron Research Award - winner Chris Pierce, Ph.D.
The Efron Award is presented to an individual on the basis of outstanding basic research contributions to neuropsychopharmacology. The contributions may be preclinical or work which emphasizes the interface between basic and clinical research. The selection of the awardee is based on the quality of the contribution, and its impact in advancing neuropsychopharmacology.

Joel Elkes Research Award – winner Vince D. Calhoun, Ph.D.
The Joel Elkes Research Award is presented to a young scientist in recognition of an outstanding clinical contribution to neuropsychopharmacology. The contribution may be based on a single discovery or a cumulative body of work. Of particular interest in selecting the awardee are contributions, which further our understanding of self-regulatory processes as they affect mental function and behavior in disease and well-being.

Julius Axelrod Mentorship Award - winner Anthony A. Grace, Ph.D.
The Julius Axelrod Mentorship Award is presented to an ACNP member who has made an outstanding contribution to neuropsychopharmacology by mentoring and developing young scientists into leaders in the field.

Paul Hoch Distinguished Service Award - winner James H. Meador-Woodruff, M.D.
The Paul Hoch Distinguished Service Award is presented by the ACNP when a member has made unusually significant contributions to the College. The emphasis of this award is on service to the College—not for teaching, clinical, or research accomplishment.

Media Award – winner Charles “Charlie” Rose, Jr., Journalist
The ACNP Media Award was established to recognize major contributions to the education of the public about mental illness and substance abuse research and the positive impact of research on treatment. The award is intended to be an expression of appreciation from the College toward outstanding public education leaders who provide complete, accurate, and unbiased information to our society about brain diseases. The honoree may be a member of the print or electronic media, an advocacy organization or a public education initiative that promotes increased awareness of brain research and the impact it has on people’s lives. Charlie Rose was chosen for his exceptional contributions to neuroscience, the biological basis of brain disease, and his mission to educate the general public in this regard. His contributions to educating the public on brain function and dysfunction are exemplified most notably in the Charlie Rose Brain Series, a television series exploring the mysteries of the human brain, including research dedicated to a better understanding of brain disorders.
2014 ACNP New Members and Members Promoted to Fellow

Please help us welcome the 42 new Members selected for 2014 membership at the 52nd Annual Meeting. We also congratulate the 16 ACNP Members who were promoted to Fellow status in the College.

2014 New Members

Ursula Bailer
Deanna Barch
George Bartzokis
Ruth Benca
Zubin Bhatgwar
Carlos Blanco
Juan Bustillo
Judy Cameron
Kelly Cosgrove
Zafiris Daskalakis
Ronald Davis
Gaetano Di Chiara
Katharina Domschke
Michael Ehlers
Rita Fuchs
Maura Furey
Gerhard Grunder
Hitoshi Hashimoto
Noboru Hiroi
Kazutaka Ikeda
Hadine Joffe
Sheena Josselyn
Thomas Kilduff
Andrew Krystal
Antony Loebel
Stefano Marenco
Patrick McGrath
Vinod Menon
Guo-li Ming
Tanya Murphy
Thomas Nordahl
George Papakostas
Carmine Pariante
Mikhail Pletnikov
Kenzie Preston
Christopher Ross
Thomas Schulze
Barbara Stanley
Philip Szeszko
Lei Wang
Mark Weiser
Owen Wolkowitz

Members Promoted to Fellow

E. Sherwood Brown
Davangere Devanand
Stan Floresco
Judith Ford
Robert Freedman
Dimitri Grigoriadis
Pat Levitt
Michael Lewis
Sarah Lisanby
Anil Malhotra
Jacqueline McGinty
Lisa Monteggia
James Nelson
John Newcomer
Stephan Taylor
Charles Zorumski

New 2014 Officers and Council Members

The reins of leadership were passed to 2014 ACNP President, Peter W. Kalivas, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Neurosciences, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC, by outgoing President David A. Lewis, M.D.

Raquel E. Gur, M.D., Ph.D., Director, Neuropsychiatry, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, assumed the role of President-Elect.

 Newly elected Council members:

Barry J. Everitt, FRS, Sc.D., Professor of Behavioral Neuroscience, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

Marina E. Wolf, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Neurosciences, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, North Chicago, IL
2013 NEATOR Recipient

The first annual NEATOR (Neuropsychopharmacology Editors’ Award for a Transformative Original Report) was presented to Michael H. Baumann, Ph.D. for his paper entitled: The Designer Methcathinone Analogs, Mephedrone and Methylone, are Substrates for Monoamine Transporters in Brain Tissue. The award was presented to Dr. Baumann by Neuropsychopharmacology, Editor in Chief, William A. Carlezon, Jr. Ph.D. during the President’s Plenary on Monday December 9th.

The award was developed by the team of Neuropsychopharmacology Editors to further strengthen the journal. There are numerous goals:

• To recognize the best papers published in our journal and honor the researchers who performed the work.
• To provide an incentive for ACNP members to submit their best work to our journal.
• To provide an opportunity to develop positive relationships between the ACNP and top researchers who are not currently members of the college.
• To foster positive relationships between our journal and junior/early-career investigators, such that these investigators will continue to consider Neuropsychopharmacology for their work in the future and provide service as reviewers or editors.
• To provide an additional distinction that may facilitate promotion within ACNP or at home institutions.
• To perpetuate the sense of enthusiasm for outstanding contributions and collegiality for which ACNP is broadly known.

Congratulations Dr. Baumann!

New Circumspectives Blog

The editors of Neuropsychopharmacology are pleased to introduce a new Feature called Circumspectives. These Features are designed to examine problems (scientific disagreements) of great importance to the field of neuropsychopharmacology—and thus the readership of this journal—from more than one perspective. They resemble debates, but with a twist. The general format is to first have separate sections in which two thought leaders on the topic articulate their individual positions. The distinguishing element, however, is that the piece ends with a “reconciliation” (or rapprochement) that is co-authored by both and includes ideas or experiments that will move the field forward.

Our inaugural Circumspectives is entitled “The development and maintenance of drug addiction”, authored by Roy A. Wise and George F. Koob (2014). The authors are eminent addiction researchers who have had a tremendous influence on the field, through both their research and generative spirits. For decades they have had a rather famous scientific disagreement, centered on their opposing views about what motivates addictive behavior. Dr. Wise is a proponent of the idea that the positive (rewarding) effects of abused drugs are most important, whereas Dr. Koob’s theory is that it is the aversive effects of drug withdrawal (the “Dark Side”) that are critical.

We welcome your thoughts on this debate and, if you wish to share them, your own ideas for experiments that would help to resolve this debate and push the field forward. To enable this, we have created a blog on the ACNP website; www.acnp.org/resources/acnpblog.aspx where you can provide your comments on this debate.

Bill Carlezon, Ph.D., on behalf of the Editors of NPP.
Neuropsychopharmacology Top 10 Reviewers

The Editors of Neuropsychopharmacology—the Official Journal of the ACNP—are pleased to announce the Top 10 Reviewers for 2013.

#1 Noboru Hiroi – 24 reviews
#2 Paul Kenny – 23 reviews
#3 Yavin Shaham – 19 reviews
#4 George Koob – 17 reviews
#5 Arthur Brody – 16 reviews
#6 Michael Bruchas – 16 reviews
#7 Sheena Josselyn – 14 reviews
#8 Carlos Bolanos – 14 reviews
#9 Kelly Cosgrove – 13 reviews
#10 Ron See – 13 reviews

The awards were based on the number of reviews completed within a 1-year period (December 1, 2012 through November 30, 2013), and each received a monetary gift, with the top reviewer receiving $200, and the rest of the top ten receiving $100 each. The winners were announced in December at the annual meeting in Hollywood, Florida.

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.

The loyalty and tireless efforts of our reviewers have played an important role in the strengthening of our journal. We congratulate the winners and 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.

Sincerely,

Bill Carlezon, Ph.D.
On behalf of the Editors of Neuropsychopharmacology

Staff Spotlight – Meet the Project Coordinator

As the Project Coordinator for both ACNP and SIRS, Kelly Phy assists with membership management and communications, ACNP & SIRS projects, office administration and the ACNP Travel Awardee Program. Kelly was born and raised in Middle Tennessee but decided to head east to attend the University of Tennessee (GO VOLS!) for college. During her time at UT, she fell in love with event planning and knew that was where her career was headed! After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies, Kelly returned to the Nashville area to start her career as an event planner at Gaylord Opryland. She spent 4 wonderful years in the hospitality industry, most recently as a Conference Coordinator.

Kelly found PMG after deciding that she wanted to be more involved with the planning phase of conferences as opposed to the execution side of things. After recently surviving her first ACNP Annual Meeting, Kelly has fallen even more in love with this organization; “I truly get to work with some of the most fun and interesting people in the world!”

When she’s not working, Kelly enjoys reading, cooking, and napping (mostly after she cooks). She also enjoys spending time with her wonderful husband, Thomas (he paid her to say that), and her two golden retrievers, Lois and Lola. Kelly is also quite fond of her new found role as “Aunt” and spends a lot of her time wrapped around her niece Maggie’s tiny finger.
ACNP Staff Contact Information

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Upcoming Meetings

**ISCTM Annual Meeting**
February 18-20, 2014
Fairmont Hotel
Washington, DC, USA
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/

**ADAA 2014 Annual Conference**
March 27-30, 2014
Chicago Marriott Downtown
Chicago, Illinois, USA
www.adaa.org/conference

**4th Biennial Schizophrenia International Research Society Conference**
April 5-9, 2014
Firenze Fiera Congress Center
Florence, Italy
www.schizophreniaconference.org

**World Congress on Brain, Behavior and Emotions**
April 7-9, 2014
Montreal, Canada
www.wcbbe2014.com

**Society of Biological Psychiatry**
69th Annual Scientific Convention
May 8-10, 2014
Hilton, Midtown
New York, NY, USA
www.sobp.org

**ASCP Annual Meeting (NCDEU)**
June 16-19, 2014
The Westin Diplomat
Hollywood, Florida, USA
www.ascpmeeting.org

**XXIInd World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics**
October 12-16, 2014
Copenhagen, Denmark
www.ispg.net

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

www.acnp.org

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