



ACNP Bulletin

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ACNP President's Letter 2016

Alan Frazer, Ph.D.

I am honored to serve as the President of the ACNP. The ACNP was organized over 50 years ago, during the wave of excitement that accompanied the discovery of drugs that dramatically improved the treatment of psychiatric illnesses. It is worth remembering that at the foundation of the College was the idea that patients with such illnesses would benefit from the results of interactions among scientists in academia, the pharmaceutical industry and government with their combined expertise in either pre-clinical and/or clinical studies. The ACNP, then, was “translational” even before the term was applied to biomedical research. In addition to its scientific endeavors, the College would also strive to increase government support for research important to these disorders as well as contribute to the public discourse around issues of relevance for the discipline of neuropsychopharmacology, e.g., informed consent with psychiatric patients, the use of animals in biomedical research, safety of psychotherapeutic treatments.

As might be expected, the questions we are asking now are more sophisticated and nuanced than those we asked 50 years ago. Further, the techniques that we have at our disposal, many of which could not even be imagined in 1961, allow us to ask and answer questions that we could not think of then. The White House Brain Initiative, currently underway, will elicit innovative technical developments, eventually enabling us to study and understand brain function in ways that are not possible even today. Nevertheless, the “translatable” impact of all these developments for our patients, while substantial in many ways has been modest in others. Societal influences play a major role in how well our research is supported and the robustness of that support dramatically impacts the pace of new developments. Unfortunately, despite the many advances in medicine in general and in our field in particular, there are negative influences on research. Those negative influences are fueled by the fact that many in the general population have little understanding of how science works, leading to indifference at best and an anti-science bias at worst. A lack of understanding or appreciation of science also exists for decision makers -- our political leaders and the press. Currently, balanced budgets are of paramount importance for some of our political leaders even if at the expense of curtailing or eliminating many crucial research initiatives. The pharmaceutical industry is perceived as a



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ACNP President's Letter 2016

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problem, rather than being part of the solution in developing better treatments. Others view animals as having the same “rights” as humans and state that because of this it is immoral to use them for research purposes. And there is the still-prevailing, although hopefully lessened, stigma of mental illness. As a College of scientists, these are not issues directly addressed by our research efforts.

Nevertheless, these issues affect our College and our colleagues and our ability to carry out research so as to help our patients. Accordingly, as educators, it is appropriate that our College attempts to address some of these issues and others with societal impact in ways that are consistent with our mission, with the size of our organization and, most importantly, with the expertise contained within our College. For example, our Liaison Committee, both on its own and in conjunction with other organizations, visits Capitol Hill periodically to discuss a variety of issues with members of Congress and their staff. Not surprisingly, these visits often focus on the need for more funding for biomedical research in general or for psychiatric illnesses in particular. I am proud that the ACNP engages in this activity, and the high quality and accomplishments of our members provides the credibility that enables our message to be heard. During such visits, though, it should be possible to educate further the members of Congress about how science works, the importance of animals in biomedical research, and specific issues of paramount importance for our patients such as the delivery of health services. Representing the needs of our patient advocacy organizations can lead to their promoting our research, which will be a win/win situation.

Like many members of the College, I am a basic scientist, and I am increasingly concerned about a continuing effort by a number of large, well-financed groups with a mission to restrict, and ultimately end, the use of animals in biomedical research. I give credit to veterinarians and regulatory agencies whose activities have led to the better treatment of animals used in research, including better housing conditions. Also, it is appropriate for all of us to take into consideration how to refine our experimental protocols and when possible to replace animals with alternative procedures so as to reduce the number of animals used. But we must always remember that biomedical research with animals alleviates pain, suffering and death -not only in humans but also in animals. Animals such as chimpanzees can be susceptible to the same diseases that humans are, Ebola being an example. Captive chimpanzees have been added to the “endangered” list and research with animals on this list is forbidden. There is practically unanimous agreement among experts that chimpanzees are essential in certain studies and, ironically, for developing an effective Ebola vaccine for wild populations. Ebola has wiped out almost one-third of the world's chimpanzees (and gorillas) over the last 20 years or so. Before an Ebola vaccine can be administered to chimpanzees in the wild, it must be tested first on captive chimpanzees. This may no longer be possible. So recently developed Ebola vaccines, tested extensively in animals, are likely to be effective in humans but may not be given to chimpanzees in the wild, unless the rules are changed.

The animal “rights” movement has targeted members of the ACNP for the research they carry out. We have responded to such attacks with letters to the appropriate authorities clarifying the activities of our members. But we need to do more and become proactive and not just reactive. All our members know that our effective treatments for ADHD, major depressive disorder, schizophrenia, etc., as imperfect as they may be, resulted both from basic research being carried out in animals as well as studies in animals to test safety. And we will not improve our treatments without animal research. The facts are on our side. But again as educators, we need to tell them – to schoolchildren, teenagers, adults, politicians, and the press. As



Director's Notes – ACNP Mentorship

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

One of the benefits of young investigators attending the ACNP meeting historically has been the availability of mentors to connect with them, to serve as a friendly guide throughout the meeting, and to introduce them to senior scientists in their field of research. The College began formally arranging for mentors for our travel awardees decades ago and that mentoring program has been very successful, as judged by the feedback we have received from those awardees over the years.

More recently, we have very ambitiously expanded our mentoring efforts. We now offer mentors to our traditional travel awardees and travel award applicants, to past travel awardees, to underrepresented minorities, to early career women, to trainees, and to associate members; even though in some cases associate members are sought after as mentors themselves. In fact, for the first time ever, without doubling up, we were not able to provide a mentor to everyone who requested one at the meeting this past December. This expanded mentorship availability is a by-product of efforts by Council, our Minority Task Force, our Women's Task Force, and our Membership Advisory Task Force to ensure that the College is seen as open and welcoming to a younger and more diverse group of scientists.

During this year we will be working with representatives from the various task forces mentioned above to develop more clear guidelines and expectations for mentors and to better coordinate their efforts. As we work to make a good program even better, we hope that you will respond by offering your services as a mentor. Last year, even though we had 126 volunteers, we still needed 43 more volunteer mentors to fulfill all the requests. Although we were fortunate to have 43 members generously agree to serve as mentor to 2 young researchers each, we hope to make up that deficit and then some in this coming year.

As you think about volunteering to serve as a mentor, you should know that very often our mentors report that they feel that they benefit from the mentor experience almost as much as the mentee. This is a point that has always impressed me about the ACNP membership. Our members willingly invest a lot of their time in helping their mentees to have a great experience at the meeting. This willingness to serve the younger scientists, and the College, by so many senior members is one of the many things that makes the ACNP such a great organization.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting, and I hope I see a lot of those red mentor ribbons on your name badges!



Past Presidents' Luncheon 2015

Standing: Donald Klein, David Rubinow, Herbert Meltzer, David Kupfer, Daniel Weinberger, David Braff, Carol Tamminga, William (Biff) Bunney, Roger Meyer, Alan Schatzberg

Seated: Kenneth Davis, Joseph Coyle, Anissa Abi-Dargham, Raquel Gur, Alan Frazer, John Krystal, Ronnie Wilkins



ASSOCIATE & NEW MEMBER CONNECTION

2015 ACNP Career Development Session

Summary By: James Murrough, M.D.

The Membership Advisory Task Force was pleased to sponsor its fifth career development session at the 2015 ACNP meeting, entitled “Nuts and Bolts of ACNP Membership.” The lively session was moderated by Daniel Mueller and Kay Tye and featured an engaging panel that included Karen Szumlinski, Gregory Light, Victoria Arango, David Goldman, and Patricio O'Donnell. There was standing room only as eager meeting attendees turned out in numbers to get the inside scoop on the ACNP membership process. Daniel Mueller provided a brief overview of the application process and explained how each year the Membership Advisory Task Force collects and analyzes data concerning membership applications. Panel members then introduced themselves and commented on how the ACNP has fit into their own career paths. These initial comments soon gave way to a brisk back-and-forth with the audience. Who is accepted into the College? How are membership decisions made? How do I begin the process? If my application was rejected in the past, should I apply again? These are just a few of the questions that were addressed by the panel during the session. Victoria Arango provided a detailed breakdown of the qualities that the Membership Committee seeks in its applicants: these include, (1) knowledge of the College, (2) recurring attendance at meetings, (3) a good publication record, (4) NIH or other grant funding, (5) completion of reviews for *Neuropsychopharmacology*, and (6) a strong letter of nomination from a member of the ACNP. Potential candidates were encouraged to reach out to members early to secure letters of nomination (in some cases members may only provide one nomination letter per year). While these factors apply to both Associate Member and full Member levels, there was additional emphasis on the importance of showing a track record of mentoring for applicants seeking full membership. There was an energetic discussion around the efforts of the ACNP to be inclusive and transparent, while at the same time maintaining its small size and intimate feel. David Goldman reflected on the unique aspects of the College and referred to it as a “career accelerant.” Commenting further he said, “At the ACNP meeting you might have a hallway conversation with Eric Nestler...[ACNP membership] is a bit of a climb but well worth it.”



2016 New Associate Members

Congratulations and welcome to the 31 new Associate Members selected at the 54th Annual Meeting in Hollywood, Florida! They are:

R. Alison Adcock
Albert Arias
Darrick Balu
Kristin Bigos
Camron Bryant
Thilo Deckersbach
Christine Denny
Gabriel Dichter

David Dietz
Kate Fitzgerald
Christie Fowler
Juan Gallego
Charles Gillespie
Sergio Iniguez
Amy Janes
Shin-ichi Kano

Mazen Kheirbek
Mary Kay Lobo
Hirofumi Morishita
Karen Parker
Jonathan Posner
Alan Prossin
Tarek Rajji
Kathryn Reissner

W. Kyle Simmons
April Thames
Daniela Tropea
Jill Turner
Hiroyuki Uchida
James Waltz
Catharine Winstanley

2015 Associate Member Reception



ASSOCIATE & NEW MEMBER CONNECTION

The 2016 Membership Advisory Task Force members are listed below. They look forward to your feedback and suggestions.

Vaishali Bakshi, <i>Chair</i>	vbakshi@wisc.edu	M. Mercedes Perez-Rodriguez	mercedes.perez@mssm.edu
Erika Forbes, <i>Co-Chair</i>	forbese@upmc.edu	Scott Schobel	scott.schobel@roche.com
Ryan Bachtell	ryan.bachtell@colorado.edu	Srijan Sen	srijan@umich.edu
Melissa Brotman	brotmanm@mail.nih.gov	Karen Szumlinski	szumlinski@psych.ucsb.edu
Shelly Flagel	sflagel@umich.edu	Kay Tye	kaytye@mit.edu
Daniel Mueller	daniel.mueller@camh.ca	Aristotle Voineskos	aristotle.voineskos@camh.ca
James Murrough	james.murrough@mssm.edu		

2015 and 2016 ACNP Travel Award Program

The 2015 ACNP Annual Meeting brought another outstanding class of 58 travel awardees to the meeting. The busy week of scientific presentations and sessions began Saturday evening with a poster session reception. Awardees presented their research to mentors, committee members and ACNP leadership in a smaller more intimate setting, affording them the opportunity to make connections early, setting the stage for an outstanding meeting experience. The awardees also attended a luncheon later in the week where they heard from Maria Oquendo, who gave a talk on successful careers and the 7 “M’s” required for success, laced with examples from her own career history. 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.

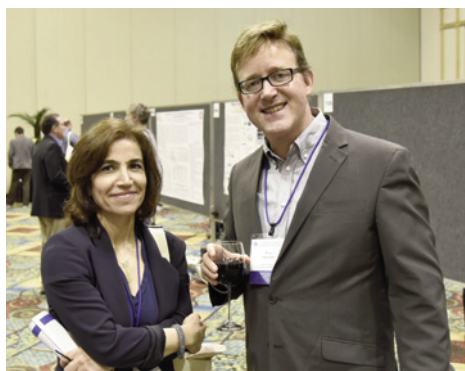
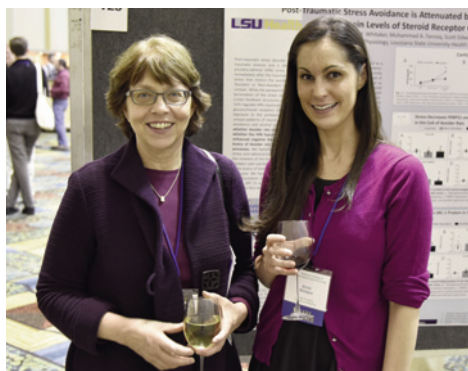
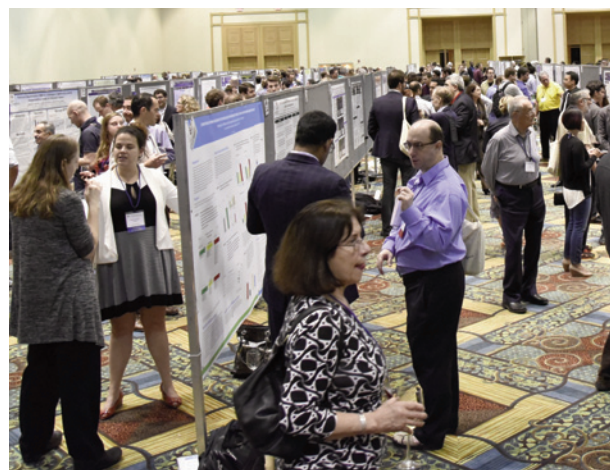
The 2016 Travel Award guidelines will soon be posted on the ACNP website. Please visit www.acnp.org/annualmeeting/travelawards.aspx for more information on this opportunity for a young investigator at your institution. For questions, please contact the Executive Office: acnp@acnp.org.



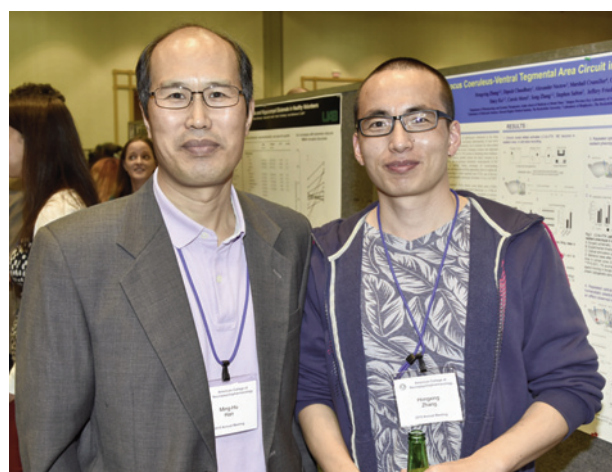
Annual Meeting 2015



More Annual Meeting photos are available on the members' only section of the ACNP website under the Annual Meeting tab.



Annual Meeting 2015



Opening Night 2015!!

A big THANK YOU to David Rubinow (2010 Past-President) and his band mates for livening up our opening night. Although the weather was seriously bad, the *Bobb B. Soxx|U-trou* were oh so good, rock'in the party all night long. Carly (Rubinow), Rick (Mrazik), Bill (Montgomery), Howie (Feinstein), Dr. Blues (Rich Loewenstein) and Fitz (Denis Fitzgerald)... thanks for making the night so special.



ACNP Honorific Awards

The 2015 Honorific Awards were presented by Awards Committee chairman, Dr. Peter Kalivas, at the President's Plenary on Monday, December 7th during the Annual Meeting in Florida.

Daniel H. Efron Research Award - recognizing outstanding basic research contributions to neuropsychopharmacology. **Recipient - Joshua Gordon, M.D., Ph.D.**

Joshua Gordon was nominated by René Hen and selected for his ground-breaking work in laboratory-based examination of mouse models of human psychiatric illness. His lab has made key advances in understanding how brain circuits interface to produce both normal and pathological behaviors. In particular, he has advanced our understanding of how the prefrontal cortex and allocortical brain regions such as the hippocampus and amygdala interact to regulate anxiety and fear. His findings bear on our understanding of the pathophysiology of many neuropsychiatric disorders, including schizophrenia, OCD and anxiety disorders. Dr. Gordon has pioneered techniques and approaches for understanding connectivity between these structures, and integrates across different levels of neuroscience, science and medicine, and research and teaching. He is an exceptional neuropsychopharmacologist.



Joel Elkes Research Award - recognizing outstanding clinical contributions to neuropsychopharmacology. **Recipient - Gustavo Turecki, M.D., Ph.D.**

Gustavo Turecki was nominated by Eric Nestler and selected for his leadership in clinical academics investigating neurobiological mechanisms of psychiatric syndromes. His successful integration of clinical research on mood disorders and suicide and study of their genetic and epigenetic foundations, have led to clinical intervention protocols that have helped improve patient care. His laboratory is an international leader in the investigation of the neurobiology of suicide, focusing on functional genomics, epigenetics and other molecular factors. Dr. Turecki's contributions in creating and managing the Suicide Brain Bank at the Douglas Bell-Canada Brain Bank, have allowed researchers from around the world to access unique and valuable human tissues.

Eva King Killam Research Award - recognizing outstanding translational research contributions to neuropsychopharmacology that focus on translating advances from basic science to human investigations. **Recipients - Erika Forbes, Ph.D. and Christopher Pittenger, M.D., Ph.D.**

Erika Forbes was nominated by David Lewis and selected for her seminal work in the area of the reward-related brain function in depression with a focus on the role of reward function in the development of adolescent depression. Her research on reward-related brain function in adolescents has significantly contributed to translational research in neuropsychopharmacology, representing an essential bridge between basic science and human investigations. Her lab is a leader in the study of the typical development of reward circuitry during adolescence, the backdrop of brain development against which depression typically emerges. Erika's most recent work has expanded to investigations of other forms of affective disruption, transdiagnostic high-risk populations and the role of social context in brain development. Using fMRI, behavior observation, and ecological momentary assessment, Erika has examined neurobehavioral aspects of positive affect and reward processing in the development of youth depression, revealing that function in human neural reward circuitry is disrupted in adolescent depression. Her national and internationally-recognized research has increased our understanding of the role of social context in brain development.



Christopher Pittenger was nominated by Ron Duman and selected for his research understanding of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder and the neurobiological underpinnings and novel treatments of OCD and Tourette Syndrome. Dr. Pittenger's research, both with patients and in animal models, has elucidated mechanisms of learned automatic behaviors,

ACNP Honorific Awards

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with the ultimate goal of developing new understandings and better treatments for a variety of neuropsychiatric conditions. Chris' broad translational work in protein biochemistry, mouse behavior, PET or fMRI brain imaging, and clinical phenomenology enables him to see interactions that others might miss, as evidenced in a 2008 NPPR publication of the interrelationship of stress, depression, and the mechanisms of neuroplasticity in which Chris combined observations from cognitive psychology, behavioral studies, and molecular and electrophysiological work in an accessible conceptual framework. Dr. Pittenger's dissertation was completed with Nobel Prize recipient, Eric Kandel, who spoke of Chris as "world class" and "one of those rare students who come along only a few times on one's career." His important translational work has been recognized with numerous prestigious awards.



Julius Axelrod Mentorship Award - recognizes outstanding contributions to neuropsychopharmacology by mentoring and developing young scientists into leaders in the field. **Recipient - Robert Post, M.D.**

Robert Post was nominated by Mark Frye and selected for his career-long mentorship of successful researchers by modeling and ingraining the concept of working in groups with mutual respect, energy, and competition, and inspiring productive collaborations with successful impact to the field. He has mentored more than 30 fellows, modeling for these scientists and clinicians collegiality and diversity team building combined with intellectual curiosity. Of his mentees, more than 50% continue to be actively engaged in research and over 25% are or were established Department Chairs or have led major clinical research positions nationwide. Dr. Post's nomination was also supported with letters from Lori Altshuler and Susan Weiss.

Paul Hoch Distinguished Service Award - presented to a member who has made unusually significant contributions to the College. **Recipient - Ronnie D. Wilkins, Ed.D., CAE**

Ronnie was nominated by Joseph Coyle along with ACNP Council, and was selected for his consistent leadership and vision over the past 17 years that, ultimately, transformed the College. With forward thinking and strategic planning, he steadily restructured the sources of revenue by increasing income from operations and investments while reducing expenses and reliance on rapidly diminishing pharmaceutical funding. With Ronnie at the helm, the College enjoys a financially secure future with the resources, structure, and talent to continue to fulfill its Mission of furthering research and education in neuropsychopharmacology and related fields, with an outstanding reputation as the premier professional society for the exchange and dissemination of scientific knowledge on the causes and treatments of disorders of the brain and behavior.



Media Award - recognizes major contributions to the education of the public about mental illness and substance abuse research and the positive impact of research on treatment. **Recipient - Lisa Genova, Ph.D., Author**

Lisa Genova was nominated by Joseph Coyle and selected for her authorship of four New York Times bestselling novels focusing on the topic of brain disorders including, Alzheimer's disease (*Still Alice*), traumatic brain injury (*Left Neglect*), autism (*Love Anthony*) and Huntington's disease (*Inside the O'Briens*). *Still Alice*, tells the story of a highly educated Harvard professor, wife and mother who is diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease and chronicles her struggles and decline. Her compelling novel spent over 40 weeks on the New York Times best sellers list and, in 2014, premiered as a critically acclaimed major motion picture bringing increased understanding of those affected by this dreaded disease. Dr. Genova is a Harvard trained neuroscientist and through her writing, she brings compassionate awareness and dialogue to often uncomfortable and rarely discussed neuropsychiatric disorders.



2016 ACNP New Members and Members Promoted to Fellow

Please help us welcome the 39 new Members selected for 2016 membership at the 54th Annual Meeting. We also congratulate the 72 ACNP Members who were promoted to Fellow status in the College

2016 New Members

Robert Alexander	Christian Luscher	Warren Taylor
Tracy Bale	Robert Malison	Dardo Tomasi
Moses Chao	Sanjay Mathew	Jason Tregellas
Colin Dourish	Robert Messing	Gustavo Turecki
Erika Forbes	Michael Nader	Eric Turner
Kenji Hashimoto	Jonathan Rabinowitz	Daniel Umbricht
Gregor Hasler	Victor Reus	Kimberly Vanover
Ian Hickie	Zachary Rodd	Jeremy Veenstra-
Paul Holtzheimer	Dorit Ron	VanderWeele
Yasmin Hurd	Randal Ross	Eric Vermetten
Gitte Knudsen	Laura Rowland	Kimberly Yonkers
Evelyn Lambe	Martha Sajatovic	Jared Young
Scott Langenecker	Jordan Smoller	
Ruth Lanius	James Swain	

Members Promoted to Fellow

Susan Amara	Lars Jarskog	Daniel Pine
Susan Andersen	Rene Kahn	Daniele Piomelli
Paul Appelbaum	Amir Kalali	Nunzio Pomara
Christina Barr	James Kennedy	Susan Powell
Jill Becker	Sidney Kennedy	John Ragland
Sabina Berretta	Bruce Kinon	Kurt Rasmussen
Kathleen Brady	Harold Koenigsberg	Barbara Rothbaum
Nicholas Brandon	Adrienne Lahti	Scott Russo
John Bruno	Helen Lavretsky	Susan Schultz
Monte Buchsbaum	Ellen Leibenluft	Barry Setlow
Vince Calhoun	Caryn Lerman	Cynthia Shannon
Jose Canive	Marco Leyton	Weickert
Linda Carpenter	Kelvin Lim	M. Katherine Shear
Yue Chen	Bertha Madras	Etienne Sibille
Wilson Compton	Graeme Mason	Pamela Sklar
William Coryell	Colleen McClung	Edith Sullivan
Melissa DelBello	Kalpana Merchant	John Sweeney
Erica Duncan	Jeffrey Meyer	Michael Thase
Mary-Anne Enoch	F. Gerard Moeller	Madhukar Trivedi
Charles France	Ziad Nahas	Guochuan Tsai
Mark Frye	Thomas Neylan	Sophia Vinogradov
Jon Grant	Vishwajit Nimgaonkar	George Woody
R. Adron Harris	Stephanie O'Malley	Deborah Yurgelun-Todd
Elliot Hong	Mani Pavuluri	
Thomas Hyde	Bradley Peterson	

New 2016 Officers and Council Members



The reins of leadership were passed to 2016 ACNP President, **Alan Frazer, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Pharmacology, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX by outgoing President Raquel E. Gur, M.D., Ph.D.

Anissa Abi-Dargham, M.D., Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Radiology, Columbia University, New York State



Psychiatric Institute, Director, Division of Translational Imaging, assumed the role of President-Elect.

New Council members:



Antonello Bonci, M.D., Ph.D., Scientific Director, Intramural Research Program, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Baltimore, Maryland

Rita Valentino, Ph.D., Professor, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Neuropsychopharmacology: Journal Update

The third annual Neuropsychopharmacology Editors' Award for a Transformative Original Report (NEATOR), which honors the best original paper published in our journal during the previous calendar year, was presented during the annual meeting President's Plenary session. This year's award was given to Dr. Rainer Spanagel from Universitat Heidelberg for his manuscript entitled "Acamprosate produces its anti-relapse effects via calcium." The award was presented by Dr. Markus Heilig, the senior editor who made the nomination.



Congratulations Dr. Spanagel!

The Top 10 Reviewers for 2015 were also announced at the annual meeting. This recognition was based on the number of reviews completed within a 1-year period (December 1, 2014 through November 30, 2015), and given to the following reviewers:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| #1 – Noboru Hiroi (26) | #6T – Arthur Brody (11)* |
| #2 – Diego Pizzagalli (13) | #6T – Dost Ongur (11)* |
| #3 – Michael Bruchas (12)* | #8 – Rebecca Shansky (11)* |
| #4 – Gregory Fonzo (12)* | #9 – Paul Czoty (11)* |
| #5 – Matthew Hill (12)* | #10 – Stephan Mahler (11)* |

The number within the parentheses indicates the number of reviews completed, and the stars indicate that our tie-breaker system was used when determining the exact order. Our first tie-breaker is average number of days required to complete the review, and the second is the percentage of invitations to review accepted.

These individuals received gift cards as a sign of gratitude for their service to the journal. 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 tireless efforts of our reviewers have played an important role in the continued 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*

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.

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Main Phone: 615-324-2360**Fax: 615-523-1715****E-mail: acnp@acnp.org****ACNP President's Letter 2016***(continued from page 2)*

President, I will charge the ACNP and its members to become more involved in such activities, in collaboration with other appropriate societies, and hope that this has some positive effects.

We do address the issue of the stigma of mental illness in a variety of ways. An important contribution that we can make as scientists is the identification of biomarkers for psychiatric illnesses. Doing so would be transformative in moving psychiatric illnesses further into the general medical domain where biological alterations found in patients help to make or to confirm diagnoses and/or to direct treatment. Identification of biomarkers remains a “holy grail” for our research efforts, but we have not found one. In addition to looking for biomarkers directly, the research of many of our members using “endophenotypes” and their use of Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) to stratify patients should assist in the search for new treatments as well as for biomarkers.

In these exciting, but also challenging, times in biomedical science, where is the ACNP heading? In my opinion, it has been moving in the right direction and it will be quite easy for me to follow the path laid down by recent Presidents such as David Rubinow, Eric Nestler, John Krystal, David Lewis, Peter Kalivas, and Raquel Gur. Their initiatives to increase the number of younger members, women members, and underrepresented minority members in the ACNP have borne fruit and I will do everything possible to see that those important initiatives continue. Just as important as having these new members in the College is making opportunities for them to be active in the College, including presentations on our panels, membership on committees and participating in leadership- and this is occurring also. One consequence of streamlining the categories of membership about five years ago was a substantial increase in the number of members who are not from North America – both associate and full members. This diversity in our membership is highly desirable given the international flavor of research; one goal of mine will be to increase the visibility of these members in the College. A vibrant organization such as the ACNP needs a solid financial footing to be effective – fortunately, our financial situation is quite good due primarily to the efforts of our Treasurer, David Kupfer, our Executive Director, Ronnie Wilkins, and our Deputy Director, Sarah Timm

I am fortunate to be taking over the Presidency in the best of times – with the College having an outstanding diverse group of talented, dedicated investigators, a superb support staff, fiscal stability, and the ongoing guidance from very wise past presidents. In light of these considerations, even I should not be able to mess things up too badly!

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