



ACNP Bulletin

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Looking Ahead to December

Alan Frazer, Ph.D.

It is already spring, and the basketball playoffs and the baseball season have started. And congratulations to Villanova and to Connecticut for their championships in men's and women's collegiate basketball, respectively. The 55th ACNP Annual Meeting will be here before we know it. Please review the items below. Each of these will help contribute to a successful scientific program, to recognize individuals who have made a significant impact on the field and the College, and to the membership.

Call for Proposals: The Program Committee is requesting proposals for panels, mini-panels and study groups for the annual meeting. The committee will continue to give strong consideration to panels that include women, under-represented minorities and early career scientists and clinicians. Here are some important deadlines to remember:

- Submission of overall proposals by chairs (panels, mini-panels and study groups): Tuesday, May 10, 2016
- Submission of individual presenter abstracts (panel and mini-panel): Tuesday, May 24, 2016
- Submission of disclosures by Study Group participants: Tuesday, May 24, 2016
- Chair review and finalize proposed sessions (panels, mini-panels and study groups): Friday, May 27, 2016

http://acnp.submitabstract.org/conf_website/acnp.submitabstract.org

Award Nominations: We are now accepting nominations for the 2016 Honorific Awards. This is a great opportunity to honor and recognize individuals who have made an impact on Neuropsychopharmacology and/or the College. The Honorific Awards Committee urges you to nominate a deserving colleague and encourages the nomination of women and minorities.

- The Daniel H. Efron Research Award honors the recipient for excellence in basic research, the Joel Elkes Research Award for excellence in clinical research and the Eva King Killam Research Award for excellence in translational research. Nominees for the Efron and Elkes Awards must be 50 years of age or younger on December 31, 2016, and nominees for the Killam Award may be no more than twelve years past his/her terminal degree.
- The Julius Axelrod Mentorship Award may be given annually to an ACNP member who has made an outstanding contribution to neuropsychopharmacology by mentoring and developing young scientists as leaders in the field.



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ASSOCIATE & NEW MEMBER CONNECTION

Interview with Antonello Bonci, Council Member

Ryan Bachtell, ACNP Membership Advisory Task Force member

Q: How did you join council?

A: The process was really very simple. I have been at ACNP every year with one exception for the last 10 years or so. I really believe in what ACNP is trying to do. So people saw that I was very committed to being part of committees, to be part of the ACNP through my science, through my presence as a member doing whatever I was asked to do. At some point, a friend of mine suggested that I run for Council. So I threw my name in and I was pleasantly surprised that people voted for me.



Antonello Bonci

Q: What does Council do?

A: A variety of things. We have feedback from the other committees; the program committee, membership committee, the diversity committee and so on. Those committees have questions for us. They come to us to discuss issues. And, we have joint meetings from time to time. We also keep a very close eye on the finances, of course. Any matter that comes up from members from any corner of ACNP comes up to Council and we discuss them. We try to find solutions. People may want to develop something new through ACNP. Sometimes people may want to create an award, discuss new ideas or initiatives. Other times people have issues with one matter or another. Basically, anything that has to be solved or any opportunity to make ACNP stronger, it comes to council at the end of the day.



Ryan Bachtell

Q: Give me your thoughts on what council might achieve during your tenure?

A: The priorities are always the same and we are continuing to work on them because they are still unsolved. The priorities are: How do we balance gender and ethnicity in the best way? How do we create the best opportunities for minorities to increase diversity? How do we get the best scientists to stay and to be active members of ACNP? How do we get junior scientists to join ACNP? How do we get clinicians to talk to basic scientists? How do we get the best translational science through ACNP? How do we represent the non-academic institutions that are doing science? There are many that are extremely important, from pharma to biotech to private companies. How to balance the portfolio of science which is so different and make them feel represented and a part of ACNP?

Q: How do you think council's activities or influence may be misunderstood?

A: I don't know what may be misunderstood. I see myself as a voice for the members. I can bring any issue to the table. Anyone can bring any issue to the table at Council. The idea that I see from non-members, is that ACNP is a relatively elite group, for lack of a better word. We are elite in a sense of quality. Absolutely, yes. We want to privilege the best scientists from every corner. But, it does not mean that we do not allow people to come in. The number of new slots is relatively small and we constantly obsess about quality of science from wherever it comes. So, I don't know if there is an easy solution because we don't want ACNP to become a 30,000 person meeting. That's impossible. Quality is the ultimate goal. Quality and balance, to increase diversity.

Q: How have you seen the College change over the years and what direction do you see the College moving toward in the future?

A: The college has changed dramatically over the last 10 years. The amount of basic science that is represented and the amount of basic scientists that are members now, I think, has significantly increased. Their science is more and more predominant and it is driving a lot of the clinical science. What I see now, because of all of these amazing new basic science techniques, the clinicians are changing in a sense that we see more and more of a mix of traditional clinical science based on medication and testing to now a more scientific based proof of concept ideas and implementation. So ideas that are stemming from genetic and molecular techniques such as optogenetics and DREADD are being translated into the clinic through very promising techniques such transcranial magnetic stimulation and deep brain stimulation. Overall, I think there is greater interaction between basic science and clinicians that allows for these non-traditional medication clinical approaches. My prediction is that we will see more and more of that interface.



ASSOCIATE & NEW MEMBER CONNECTION

Interview with Barry Everitt, Council Member

Scott Schobel, ACNP Membership Advisory Task Force member

Q: How did you join council?

A: I initially attended ACNP meetings as a guest and speaker and was subsequently elected as a foreign corresponding member, a category that no longer exists. Although I volunteered to join committees, members in my category were not in fact eligible to do so. Then three years ago, I received an email asking if I would stand for election to Council; I said yes and was elected – I think as the first member of Council from outside the US, which is an honor.



Barry Everitt

Q: What does council do?

A: It's the governing body of ACNP and does much of its work through its standing committees (for example, programme, membership, publications, nominations and liaison, which deals with advocacy issues). It also establishes Task Forces to deal with specific issues such as diversity in the membership. Overall it works strategically to ensure the present and future strength of the College, which depends on secure finances – a major area of responsibility for Council – through holding exceptional annual scientific meetings, electing exceptional scientists as members, supporting education and training and advocating for the field on the Hill, a very important role. It also spends a lot of time discussing future venues for the meeting (some of us long to return to San Juan!).



Scott Schobel

Q: Do you believe that council's influences or role are misunderstood?

A: Possibly, but I'm not sure why. Some feedback suggests that Council might be detached from the needs of members, perhaps especially young members. But in my experience Council works hard to meet the needs of members of the College. This task will never be finished of course. If there is some misunderstanding, it may reflect the natural evolution from the smaller College it was to the vibrant, much larger College that it is now. Contemporary science requires rapid change in the way the ACNP operates and my feeling is that it does so transparently and pretty well.

Q: Have you had an accomplishment that you are most proud of during your tenure on council?

A: I don't think there are eureka moments like that. You're only a member of Council for 3 years and become a part of ongoing, as well as new, decision-making processes. Just in my brief time I think there has been considerable progress on gender diversity in the College and at its meetings, but that will be a work in progress for some time to come. ACNP is fortunate to have an exceptional Executive office and they are the individuals who ensure continuity and effect Council decisions.

Q: Where do you see the college going? Is there something that needs to be changed?

A: I think the big challenge for the College and therefore for the Council, is to keep neuropsychopharmacology as a discipline up front and central. Regrettably we are at a very difficult moment for the field. We have great science giving us many leads about disease mechanisms and new treatment targets that should enable new medicines, for which there is tremendous unmet need. Yet few pharmaceutical companies are in the business of trying to develop new medications for psychiatric disorders – and it is a very expensive, high-risk undertaking. I think that's worrying.

While it is right that exciting developments in genetics, functional and connectionist imaging, with powerful optogenetic and chemogenetic tools enabling us to understand behavioural and cognitive processes, this has perhaps led to a feeling that neuropsychopharmacology is an approach whose time has past. I don't think that's right and there is enormous potential for bringing new, and re-purposing 'old', medications to the clinic, especially in the emerging era of personalized medicine.

Q: So do you think the college might help this state of play?

A: I think it can and it will, by showcasing outstanding science at its meetings, encouraging debate and dialogue, emphasizing the astonishing advances being made and using them to advocate for investment in the treatment of psychiatric illness – both by government and the pharmaceutical industry. I do think the College has a responsibility to do this and I am confident it will.



Looking Ahead to December

(continued from page 1)

- The ACNP Media Award may be given annually to a member of the print or electronic media, advocacy organization, or public education initiative that promotes increased awareness of brain research and who has made a major contribution to the education of the public about mental illness and substance abuse research and the positive impact of research on treatment.
- The Paul Hoch Distinguished Service Award is presented to an ACNP member who has made unusually significant contributions to the College.

All nominations are due by June 29, 2016. Instructions for award nomination are available on the ACNP website, <http://www.acnp.org/programs/awards.aspx>.

Membership Nominations: Please nominate individuals from academia and industry who will contribute to the mission of the College and continue to enrich our association. In keeping with the desire to keep diversifying our membership, please remember that if you nominate a woman or ethnic minority for associate or full membership you will automatically be permitted to make a second nomination if necessary. <http://www.acnp.org/membership/applications.aspx>

Staff Spotlight - Meet the Lead Member Services Manager

Erin Shaw joined the ACNP and PMG teams in February 2016 as the Lead Member Services Manager. Erin coordinates the work of ACNP staff specialists to ensure the goals of the College are achieved. She provides oversight to committees, develops content and produces the ACNP Bulletin, participates on Council calls, oversees maintenance of the website, maintains support for Neuropsychopharmacology Reviews guest editors and authors, and assists with planning of the Annual Meeting.

Before starting with ACNP, she worked for 7 ½ years at Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center. During that time she worked as an Administrative Assistant, Conference Coordinator and Catering Sales Executive in Event Planning. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration with a focus in Marketing from Middle Tennessee State University.

When Erin is not working, she enjoys being outside hiking, running, kayaking or laying by the pool. She also enjoys attending country music concerts where she has been known to break out a few country line dances every now and then. She loves sports and can find her cheering on the Vanderbilt Commodores – Anchor Down!



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 will open with an announcement via email to membership in late July. The deadline for nominations and applications will be September 12, 2016. Should you have questions or need assistance, please contact Erin Shaw at eshaw@acnp.org.



We Are Going Green!

PLEASE NOTE: AT THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING WE ARE GOING GREEN!

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

It was approximately ten years ago that we stopped printing a hard copy of the Abstract Book for the Annual Meeting. Other, larger meetings had already stopped, at least partially because the books had become very large and unwieldy and the availability of online versions of them had made the hard copies obsolete. While we heard from a few members that they did not like the idea of only having electronic access to the abstract book, and we expected to have even more complaints when members arrived at the meeting to find no abstract book in the tote bag, we were pleasantly surprised to find that the change was readily accepted with minimal complaints. We realized that members were already taking advantage of the benefits of an online publication such as electronic searches and only downloading abstracts that are of interest, and they really did not miss the printed book.



We hope we will have a similar experience this year when we take another electronic step by eliminating the printed program book. We have noticed over the past couple of years that meeting attendees are using the small pocket guide as a quick reference and are using the electronic itinerary planner and mobile app for accessing details such as the complete program or the abstracts.

Therefore, we see no reason that we cannot save a lot of trees by eliminating the bulky program book as well. Members will have all the information that was in the printed book in the itinerary planner and the mobile app, but will also have such benefits as being able to do fast electronic searches, to see the e-posters on the app, develop a personal schedule, and will know that any last minute changes or updates that may have been made will be reflected immediately in the app.

Our meeting would not be as successful as it has been without your input, and we want you to have all the resources you need. We have already incorporated changes to the previous mobile app based on your feedback. Please let us know if there are any other enhancements you would like to see and we will do our best to provide them.

ACNP Honorific Awards – Call for Nominations

It's time to honor the scientific and mentorship accomplishments of a select few from a very long list of our distinguished members and colleagues. The Honorific Awards Committee, chaired by Dr. Raquel Gur, is requesting nominations for the following ACNP honorific awards:

- Julius Axelrod Mentorship Award
- Daniel H. Efron Research Award
- Joel Elkes Research Award
- Paul Hoch Distinguished Service Award
- Eva King Killam Research Award
- ACNP Media Award

Detailed nomination information is available on the ACNP website under the Programs & Initiative tab. The nomination deadline is **Wednesday, June 29, 2016**. Award recipients will be announced and honored at the Annual Meeting during the President's Plenary on December 5, 2016.

The committee urges you to nominate a deserving colleague and encourages the nomination of women and minorities.



55th Annual Meeting of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology

Hollywood, Florida - December 4-8

ACNP 55th Annual Meeting, December 4-8, 2016

Registration for the 55th Annual Meeting will begin in June. We are looking forward to welcoming members and their guests to the Diplomat Resort & Spa in Hollywood, Florida.

You can expect to see a different Diplomat Resort when you arrive in December for the Annual Meeting. All sleeping rooms are being renovated with an updated look. The lobby will also look completely different. The Diplomat is partnering with a number of celebrity chefs and will have several new restaurants open when we arrive.

Hollywood is located on the Florida coast approximately 15 minutes south of the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport and 45 minutes north of the Miami International Airport. The Diplomat, site of five previous annual meetings, rises 39 stories above the Atlantic Ocean and features an oceanfront pool, on-site dining options, and a full-service spa. South Florida has the only sub-tropic climate in the United States mainland; temperatures in December range from an average high of 74°F to an average low of 65°F.

The Program Committee will meet on July 16th to determine the program for December. For those who submitted a proposal, decision letters will be sent by July 18th.

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



Registration and Hotel Reservations:

The 2016 process will again be a two-step process where members and guests will first register for the meeting and then make a hotel reservation using a link received in the registration confirmation email.

Member Registrations:

To access the registration site, members must login to the ACNP website, www.acnp.org, select "Annual Meeting" and click "Registration."

Invited Guest Registrations:

Guests will receive a link to the registration site in their invitation letter.

Hotel Reservations:

All hotel reservations will be completed directly with the hotel. To reserve your hotel room, use the link contained in your registration confirmation email. The link will take you directly to the hotel website where you 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 November 1st; 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.



ACNP 55th Annual Meeting

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Air Travel for the Annual Meeting

ACNP has partnered with Direct Travel, Inc. for airline reservations. Please contact Travel Consultants, Javonna Williams, jawilliams@dt.com or Sue Shapiro sshapiro@dt.com at 615-327-2720, toll-free 800-229-3344, Monday-Friday from 9:00AM-5:00PM Central.

Invitation Banks

General Invitation Bank: This bank is fixed with 100 invitations that 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: This invitation bank allows ACNP 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.

Policy Reminders

Council recognizes that many people who attend our meeting find it a convenient place to network and to connect with colleagues from other academic, government, or industrial organizations. This informal networking has historically been an important aspect of the meeting that many of our members believe has helped further scientific progress. However, organizing competing activities (e.g. satellite sessions, scientific board meetings, or social functions) that take attendees away from the meeting site detracts from other important goals of the meeting, such as fostering an atmosphere that encourages both formal and informal scientific discourse throughout the week and providing opportunities for travel awardees, trainees, and other young scientists to interact with leaders in the field. Therefore, Council asks that you refrain from organizing activities that take our members and meeting attendees away from the meeting site.

Many of our supporting corporations and academic institutions are large organizations with many people involved in planning meetings, and we realize that sometimes people organize meetings in conflict with this policy simply because they are not aware of it. If you are invited to attend any such functions, please help us by reminding the person issuing the invitation that this would be a violation of ACNP policy.

Additionally, the ACNP name, logo, or the name of the Annual Meeting should not be used in association with any CME activity without the approval of the College. To seek permission to use the name of the College, please contact Erin Shaw (eshaw@acnp.org), who will have your request reviewed by the appropriate committee and/or Council. If someone asks you to write a report of sessions you attend at the meeting, please let them know that publishing such a report would be a violation of this policy.

2017 Officer & Council Election Results

Congratulations to the newly elected leadership.



President-Elect
Steven Hyman, M.D.



Council (Three-Year Term)
Kerry Ressler, M.D., Ph.D.



Council (Three-Year Term)
Bitia Moghaddam, Ph.D.

This election was carried out in accordance with Article VII, Section 3 and Article IX, Section 2 of the ACNP By-Laws, and its results are binding. Terms for the newly-elected officers will begin at the conclusion of the ACNP Annual Business Meeting on Wednesday, December 7, 2016.

**ACNP EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

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Brainpod is the podcast of *Neuropsychopharmacology*. All brainpods relate to topical *NPP* articles and are less than 12 minutes long. *Brainpod* is freely available to stream, download online or you can access through iTunes and Soundcloud. In recent months, there have been the following discussions:



'Women at the Podium: ACNP Strives to Reach Speaker Gender Equality' Drs. Bitu Moghaddam and Raquel Gur

'Abuse of New Psychoactive Substances: Threats and Solutions' Drs. Michael Baumann and Nora Volkow

'Impact of Stress on the Brain: Pathology, Treatment and Prevention' Drs. Kerry J. Ressler and Jordan W. Smoller

'Does Cannabis Cause, Exacerbate or Ameliorate Psychiatric Disorders?' Drs. Margaret Haney and Eden Evins

Visit the *NPP* webpage - http://bit.ly/brainpod_acnp to listen and for more details.

Are you receiving *Neuropsychopharmacology* e-alerts?

Sign up with your e-mail address to receive monthly table of contents alerts and keep informed with *Neuropsychopharmacology* news and announcements.

Each e-alert features the latest journal commentaries, circumspectives, original research and review articles.

Please visit www.acnp.org and check out the ACNP Spotlight.

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To submit items to the Bulletin, please e-mail Erin Shaw at eshaw@acnp.org