



ACNP Bulletin

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Faster Than the
Speed of Light 1

Neuropsychopharmacology
Reviews 3

Neuropsychopharmacology
Update 3

Director's Notes 4

Interview with
Dr. Peter W. Kalivas 5

Career Development
Session 2014 6

Annual Meeting
Information 7

Associate Member
Reception 8

2015 Nominating
Committee 8

Annual Meeting
Women's Luncheon 8

Faster Than the Speed of Light

Pat Levitt, Ph.D., Program Committee Chair

The American College of Neuropsychopharmacology Annual Meeting has strived to be about intersecting disciplines addressing research challenges in modern psychiatry. The 2014 annual meeting will reflect this dominant frame more than ever, as advanced neuroscience meets engineering meets big data meets new clinical translations. Attendees who have heard or read briefly about the new wave of technical and analytical advances now being applied to the brain sciences will get a large dose in Arizona. As President, Peter Kalivas set a challenging agenda for the President's Plenary by bringing to ACNP the very best scientists who have either invented or advanced the use of technologies specifically applicable to the study of psychiatric disorders, including high resolution optical imaging (Xiaowei Zhuang), new-era visualization of circuits (Karl Deisseroth), designer functional neuropharmacology (Gary Aston-Jones) and primate-human connectomics (Suzanne Haber). The Distinguished Lecture, presented by Miguel Nicolelis, brings to us machine-brain interfaces, typically viewed in neurological contexts but with great potential for applications in psychiatry.



With the table thus set, this year's efforts by the Program Committee were simply heroic in terms of narrowing the selections to maintain the much-needed diversity in basic, translational and clinical research at this year's meeting. This was done with the important goal of advancing representation of underrepresented minority scientists and women. The ACNP is making strides in the latter, with women comprising 36% of panel participants (22% of the membership), and 39% of Chairs/Co-Chairs of panel sessions. This is a significant increase from previous years, but the ACNP program still lacks significantly in attracting panel participants and submissions from underrepresented minority scientists. Randy Blakely touched upon this in last year's Program Chair article. The Program Committee will always be ready to lead in this effort, but it must be done together with ACNP members and associate members, the Membership Committee and Council encouraging underrepresented minority nominations to the College, as well as panel chairs making the extra effort to be inclusive in their selection of participants. This can be an attainable goal in the near future.

These efforts occurred in the context of keeping true to the goal of having the very best science represented. The latter was not difficult, with an almost 1.4-fold increase in panel submissions from 2013. Reviewing the submissions was a challenge – a job that could have only been

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Faster Than the Speed of Light

(continued from page 1)

ushered in full partnership with Committee co-chair Bitá Moghaddam. I don't want to dissuade those thinking about future submissions, as the rate of acceptance, approximately 40% each for panels and mini-panels, provides great opportunities for both junior and senior scientists to conceptualize novel panel topics and combinations of speakers. There was an even higher rate of acceptance for Study Groups. Keep in mind that as in years past, the President submits to membership a request for proposals that emphasize highly topical and traditionally poorly represented areas of investigation. For example, panels on dementia, clinical pharmacology, sleep and brain-peripheral interactions had many fewer submissions than those focused on mood and psychosis, which routinely lead the submission and panel acceptances. With all of this in mind, the 2014 meeting will be comprised of 39 integrative, 10 clinical and 8 basic self-identified panels and mini-panels. Of those that are categorized as *integrative*, most include research that will be reporting data from clinically relevant studies. Singling out just a few, I am particularly excited about integrative panels on drug repositioning, sex differences in the brain and impact on treatment strategies, paternal epigenetic mechanisms, molecular and cellular advances in understanding bipolar disorder, the intersection of stress, appetitive and aversive behaviors in psychiatric disorders and a panel on how neurology and psychiatry can inform each other through the study of intersecting mechanisms – in this case astrocyte dysfunction. Biomarker applications to understand the neurobiology of disorders, as well to early disorder diagnosis also will be topical and convergent with the utility of *big* data in producing new insights into the complexities of brain function and dysfunction.

You will notice a few changes at the 2014 meeting. Program Committee members raised the idea of changing the scheduling of study groups, heeding the comments of some ACNP members that in many ways, this format remains the only framework at the meeting for encouraging extensive discussion and debate. Council approved an experiment to be performed at this year's meeting – study groups have been scheduled during daytime slots and mini-panels were scheduled in the evening. I believe that the study groups this year have the potential to generate extensive conversations. They will touch upon the topics of legalization of marijuana, the NIMH RDoC initiative, neuroscience training of neuropsychiatric residents, and new opportunities for cross-species research on impairing irritability in children. The Program Committee also felt that having a separate discussant for panels perhaps had outlasted the initial intent to encourage overarching Q&A. Instead, some panels had morphed into having a fifth presentation. This year, the panel or mini-panel Chair will have the task of facilitating questions and discussions, within the same allotted time as years past, providing the audience more time to participate in the Q&A process.

Finally, I want to encourage everyone to attend the Data Blitz, once again chaired by Bill Carlezon, and the Hot Topic session, co-chaired by Bitá and me. These sessions are always among the highlights of the annual meeting, spotlighting junior (data blitz and hot topics) and senior (hot topics) investigators who never fail to report exciting, and often unpublished findings on a wide range of basic, integrative and clinical topics. Selecting a few dozen abstracts for oral presentations for these two sessions from the many hundreds of abstracts that are submitted to ACNP is THE most challenging task for the Program Committee. Each committee member designates their topic choices during abstract review, followed by final selection by the Chair and Co-Chair. This year, Bitá and I appointed, for the first time, a subcommittee of Program Committee members to assist us in this task, providing much needed expertise across topic areas that the Program Chairs simply cannot cover by themselves. During the sessions, we make a point of mixing presentations across disciplines, so plan on having a great learning experience to start off the meeting.

It has been a joy to work with Bitá, ACNP staff Laura Hill and John White and of course, Peter Kalivas. Program Chairs only do the steering – the full participation of ACNP members and Program Committee colleagues continue to ensure the highest quality and most interesting meeting in psychiatric research. See you in Phoenix!



2014 Neuropsychopharmacology Reviews: Neurodevelopment and the Origins of Brain Disorders

Chairs: Jeremy Veenstra-VanderWeele, M.D. and Pat Levitt, Ph.D.

The special plenary session for Neuropsychopharmacology Reviews will be held on Sunday, December 7, from 8:30 AM until 11:30 AM. This year's review issue focuses on the developmental origins of neuropsychiatric disorders and addiction. The divide between childhood "neurodevelopmental disorders" and adult "mental illness" is increasingly recognized as artificial. The articles in this special issue focus on emerging data from epidemiology, genetics, epigenetics, animal models, and neuroimaging that point to neurodevelopmental pathways that confer risk of disorders with varying age of onset. The plenary session offers an overview of key concepts and exciting findings in neurodevelopment.

To place neuropsychiatric illness in the proper developmental perspective, we need to understand a few key concepts. First, development does not necessarily proceed linearly but has some distinct discontinuities, often termed critical or sensitive periods, where environmental input is necessary within a defined time window. Second, early behavioral tendencies, sometimes labeled "temperament," predict later patterns of psychopathology; although this risk is moderated by environmental and developmental context. Third, the profound impact of early experience on later brain function and behavior is best understood by integrating observations across multiple domains, from epigenetics to brain circuitry to attachment theory. Finally, early exposure to toxins or drugs, though unfortunate, may serve as a natural experiment that points to key vulnerabilities during neurodevelopment, potentially also highlighting opportunities for intervention.

This year's presentations place neurodevelopment in the clinical context. The talks cover the broad span from fine-grained molecular analyses to careful clinical trials of early environmental interventions. Presentations will alternate focus from innovative research using tractable animal model systems to cutting-edge developmental research in human populations. Francis Lee (Cornell) will discuss critical and sensitive periods for neurodevelopment in rodent models, with a particular focus on fear circuitry. Heather Henderson (U Miami) will outline the contribution of temperament and developmental risk for anxiety and affective symptoms in humans. Frances Champagne (Columbia) will focus on the impact of early life experience on rodent brain development and later behavior, as mediated by epigenetics. Charley Zeanah (Tulane) will delineate the effects of extreme stress and neglect on human brain development and risk of psychopathology. Finally, Gregg Stanwood (Vanderbilt) will discuss the downstream consequences of early exposure to drugs of abuse, with an eye toward understanding the molecular and cellular underpinnings of later changes in brain function and behavior. As the ACNP moves forward into the era of rationally designed therapeutics, the developmental perspective will be increasingly important to know not just how but when to intervene.



Pat Levitt



Jeremy Veenstra-VanderWeele

Neuropsychopharmacology Update

The journal has reprised its *Circumspectives* feature, which is designed to be a debate with a twist. Our newest *Circumspectives* article is entitled "Ketamine: Promising Path or False Prophecy in the Development of Novel Therapeutics for Mood Disorders?" It will be published in print early in 2015, and is already available through our Accepted Article Preview (AAP) function. We offer a convenient link that will bring you to the most updated version that is available at the time (<http://www.nature.com/doifinder/10.1038/npp.2014.261>).

As with our previous *Circumspectives*, there is a blog on the ACNP website where you can weigh in with your opinion (<http://www.acnp.org/resources/acnpblog.aspx>). Please note that the blog is moderated so there may be a delay in seeing your comments posted.

We welcome suggestions for future *Circumspectives* topics and authors, which can be submitted to journal@acnp.org. Please note that unsolicited articles of this type will not be considered. We envision publishing 1-2 of these Features each year; the next one is already underway!

Bill Carlezon, on behalf of the senior editors





Director's Notes

The ACNP Participating Corporation Program

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

In recent conversations with both ACNP members and pharmaceutical company employees, I realized that there are some lingering misunderstandings about how a drug company can be involved with ACNP. We made some significant changes to this process several years ago which help us to better manage those relationships.

The first and most significant step in becoming an ACNP Participating Corporation is to make an application to Council. In years past, the process of becoming a participating corporation was much more informal, often just a conversation with a key ACNP representative. However, under our guidelines now, the application process is taken quite seriously by Council and I can attest that there have been applications that were rejected because Council was not convinced that the company would make a significant contribution to the scientific mission of the College. Quoting from the Participating Corporation Program description on the ACNP Website (<http://www.acnp.org/aboutus/default.aspx>):

“The purpose of the application is to provide evidence that a corporation can contribute to the scientific mission of the College. ACNP Council will review the application and make a decision regarding the applicant’s suitability for participating corporation status. The application must address the following items:

1. Provide a brief description of the company.
2. Provide evidence of original research in neuropsychopharmacology, including information about CNS drugs in development. This is an essential criterion for membership.
3. Describe their potential contribution to the mission of the College.
4. Attach biographical sketches of senior research staff.
5. Attach at least two letters of support from ACNP members.”

So, what does it mean if a company becomes a Participating Corporation? A more complete list of the benefits of Participating Corporation status is included in the description on the Website, but perhaps the most treasured benefit is that the company is allowed to send a certain number of representatives to the annual meeting. It has been made clear that our expectation is that these representatives are primarily scientists from the company’s research department. One or two individuals who play key decision making roles in the company’s overall CNS area are acceptable, but everyone understands that what is not acceptable would be to use that limited number of meeting invitations to send people whose primary role and primary purpose for being at the meeting is to do marketing. Since implementing this program, our feedback regarding drug company involvement at the meeting has been almost completely positive. And I might add that we get equally positive feedback from the industry representatives themselves. We seem to have struck the right balance in having industry involved at the meeting scientifically without the intrusive marketing activities that our members find distracting.

It is also important to note that Participating Corporations are reminded of and expected to abide by our guidelines for their involvement with the College. Those guidelines are extensive and are also listed in the description on our Website. In those guidelines we explain in detail the firewalls that we have in place to protect against any inappropriate influence by industry in any ACNP meeting or publication.

Finally, we do not accept any educational grants or allow any involvement from a company that has not been approved by Council through the Participating Corporation application process. The result of this program, involving more careful vetting of our industry partners and making expectations more clear, has been a much more satisfying experience for our industry representatives and members alike at the meeting.





ASSOCIATE & NEW MEMBER CONNECTION

Interview with El Presidente Dr. Peter W. Kalivas

By Karen K. Szumlinski, Ph.D.



The President's Membership Advisory Task Force sought to enlighten ACNP members about the in's and out's of Council. Who better to ask than the ACNP President and former Council member Dr. Peter Kalivas and who better to ask him but a former post-doctoral fellow (has it been 10 years already?!?), Karen K. Szumlinski. Dr. Kalivas took time out of his very busy summer schedule (which included a Council meeting) to answer a few questions...

Q: What is the purpose of Council? A: The role played by council is two-fold. First, the president charges the committee with global college priorities and answers questions from the committee; for example, one priority over the last few years is to increase diversity. Council's other role is to receive and approve the oral and written report from the membership committee chair and co-chair. The committee may ask council to make decisions (for example there may be a split committee vote or an ethical issue to consider). In my 3 years on council I have not seen council adjust the conclusions of the committee, and have seen only two issues that the membership committee brought for council to decide on.

Q: What do you, as President, view as the most important responsibility of Council? A: There are two general categories of responsibility. The first is to maintain the quality of scientific discourse and mentoring that marks the ACNP as a leadership scientific organization. The second is to construct reasoned and successful responses to changes that affect the organization and its membership. The latter requires that council maintain strong two-way communication with the membership in order to continuously sculpt the ACNP to fit our needs. In my opinion, great strides have been made over the last 5 years towards greater transparency and communication between council and the membership. This has led the awareness and subsequent efforts to increase diversity in our membership and our program, and to promote participation and membership of younger scientists.

Q: Who constitutes Council? A: I assume you are asking who votes. This is the people you elect, and includes six council members, the two past presidents, the incoming president, the current president, and secretary and treasurer; for a total of 12 members.

Q: Who attends Council meetings? A: Of course all the voting members of council listed above attend. Also, the two newly elected council members attend, but are not able to vote. Others in attendance who cannot vote include the Project Manager Laura Hill, Director Ronnie Wilkins and Deputy Director Sarah Timm.

Q: Does Council also meet outside of the Annual meeting? What is discussed at "extra-curricular" Council meetings? A: Council meets in the summer. Again the agenda varies, but the main reason for the summer meeting is to approve the program for the annual meeting. Thus, this meeting is held right after the program meeting, and the program chair and vice-chair attend the part of the meeting dealing with the program.

Q: Does Council decide the number of membership slots available in a particular year? A: Council does not decide. There is an algorithm that is applied every year that the membership committee uses as the maximum number of available slots. The membership committee does not have to fill all the slots. Each year 45 new slots are created (total number for both Associate and Full Members, how many for each type of membership is determined by the membership committee and the relative quality of the roster of candidates). In addition, a member leaving the ACNP or moving to emeritus status frees their membership slot to be filled that year.

Q: Does Council also discuss and vote upon ACNP-related financial decisions regarding the cost of membership dues, annual meeting, etc? A: Yes

Q: Are there currently any proposals regarding the constitution or rules of ACNP that are being discussed in the area of membership? A: No constitutional amendments that I am aware of. We have changed the nominating rule such that a member can nominate two individuals if one is a woman or under-represented minority.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



ASSOCIATE & NEW MEMBER CONNECTION

Interview with Dr. Peter W. Kalivas

(continued from page 5)

Q: What does Peter see as important strategic plan initiatives on the horizon for ACNP? A: I think there are two main initiatives. The first is to continue to explore mechanisms to increase diversity in our membership and on panels at the annual meeting. Given the demographic imbalance, this will be on our horizon for a while. The second initiative is to determine how we will promote the importance of research on neuropsychiatric diseases and neuroscience in society at large and to the government. Both of these are embodied in task forces that council has created for diversity (Women, Minorities and Membership Task Forces) or in a subcommittee of the Liaison committee that is devoted to developing advocacy strategies.

Q: Do current Council members possess any secret powers and if so, how close to radiation, venomous spiders or poisonous gases do younger members of ACNP have to stand to obtain such secret powers? A: Funny! If I can make it, anyone can. Council members are people who have been going to the ACNP for many years as members, sat on and sometimes chaired committees and are generally really good scientists. So, participation in ACNP and national recognition as a scientist are the two key ingredients. As you know, council is elected by ACNP members and serve 3-year terms, so two new members on a slate of 4 are elected. The slate of 4 is chosen by a committee separate from council, the Nominations Committee, that also chooses the other elected official ballot, e.g. President, Secretary, etc.

Q: How is the Nominating Committee selected by Council? A: At our July meeting each year, council gets a list of all members who are fellows and eligible (for example, a council member is not eligible). We then each select our top 10-15. Our lists are compared and the top 10-15 are entered onto a ballot for the membership to vote on. We have an ex officio previous chair of the committee who joins the committee meeting to provide continuity, and the immediate past president also attends as a non-voting council liaison.

Q: How do members of ACNP find out about the goings-on at Council meetings? Are the minutes posted or available to the membership? A: The minutes are posted on the members only section of the website at <http://www.acnp.org/documents/default.aspx>. The minutes are posted once they have been approved by all council members.

Career Development Session 2014 “What is Academic Career Success Today?”

The 2014 ACNP Career Development Session will be held on Tuesday, December 9th from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. This year’s session will be chaired by Raymond Cho and Paul Holtzheimer and will focus on a fundamental question for which the answers seem to be perpetually changing: “What do I need to do to be successful in my particular career track in academia?” The panelists will discuss key issues encountered on various career tracks, including the following:

- The changing landscape for funding and its significance for career tracks in academia
- What is typically required for promotion? How much emphasis is placed on ‘service’?
- How does the increasing popularity of multi-PI grants influence career paths?
- Expectations from employers at different career stages
- Diverse views of success
- Are new career tracks emerging?

This year’s panelists include:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| • Peter Kalivas | • Marina Wolf |
| • Linda Porrino | • Karen Szumlinski |
| • Carrie Ferrario | • Sachin Patel |

We look forward to your attendance at this lively session. See you in December!



Annual Meeting Information

Itinerary Planner: The itinerary planner is available at acnp.societyconference.com/conf/. The planner allows you to browse the abstracts and plan your time at the meeting.

Annual Meeting Badges will be sent to each registered attendee prior to the meeting. Please watch your mailbox and bring your badge to the meeting to reduce your wait time during registration. If you do not bring your badge to the meeting, you will be required to provide identification at registration.

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 Laura Hill (lhill@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.

Posters: The maximum area per poster is **4 feet high by 6 feet wide**. Please remember to bring push pins or tacks to mount your poster on the poster board.

E-Posters: All poster presenters will have the opportunity to share their poster with those ACNP members and 2014 meeting attendees who did not have the opportunity to see the poster during the sessions. The E-Poster website will be available for poster presenters to upload and share their poster. This site is only be accessible to ACNP members and registered meeting attendees. Poster presenters should watch for email correspondence on how to upload your poster.

Free Wireless Access will be provided throughout the lobby of the conference center.

Annual Meeting App - The Annual Meeting program will be available on a free downloadable application for iPhones, iPads, and android phones. The app will be available for download a week prior to the start of the meeting. Watch your email for additional information.

Meeting Evaluation: All meeting attendees are urged to complete an evaluation of the meeting. Attendees requesting CME credit **are required** to complete the evaluation. You may complete the evaluation in the ACNP Computer Center located in the ballroom foyers or on-line at www.acnp.org (click the Annual Meeting tab). The evaluation is available online only. All evaluations must be completed by January 22, 2015.

Opening Night Reception: Join your colleagues for the Opening Reception on Sunday evening, December 7th, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Childcare: Childcare options will be available at the JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge for all meeting attendees with children one year of age to 12 years of age. More information about childcare times and costs is available on the ACNP website www.acnp.org/annualmeeting/registration.aspx or at www.kiddiecorp.com/acnpkids.htm.

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

Associate Member Reception at the 2014 ACNP Annual Meeting

The ACNP Membership Advisory Task Force will again host an Associate Member Reception at this year's Annual Meeting. The reception is scheduled for Sunday, December 7th from 6:30pm-7:30pm, just prior to the Opening Night Reception. The Associate Member Reception will provide a casual opportunity for networking among Associate Members, Membership Advisory Task Force Committee Members, and ACNP Leaders (including Council Members, Program Committee Chairs, and Membership Committee Chairs). All Associate Members are invited and encouraged to attend.

The *newly accepted Associate Members* ("Class of 2014") will be recognized during this reception, and a booklet will be distributed highlighting each of them and briefly describing their work. We hope this booklet will be a useful vehicle for others to get to know ACNP's newest Associate Members, and also to help them to learn about each other.

2015 Nominating Committee

We are pleased to announce the following individuals have been elected to the 2015 ACNP Nominating Committee:

- Eric Nestler, M.D., Ph.D., *Chair*
- William Carlezon, Jr., Ph.D.
- Kathryn Cunningham, Ph.D.
- Cindy Ehlers, Ph.D.
- Edythe London, Ph.D.
- Patricio O'Donnell, M.D.

Annual Meeting Women's Luncheon

For the past three years, the Women's Task Force has planned and hosted a Women's Luncheon focusing on career issues specific to women and young scientists in the field while also addressing ways to increase involvement and participation for them in the College. The luncheon has garnered much interest and has been attended by well over 250 annual meeting attendees each year.

The 2014 luncheon session will feature a panel of women from varying stages of their careers to discuss a variety of issues from career development to work/life balance. Panelists are:

- Susanne Ahmari
- Erika Forbes
- Rita Goldstein
- Edythe London
- Jessica Malberg
- Linda Porrino

The luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 9th from 11:00am-1:00pm in Grand Canyon Salons 7-8 and is open to all meeting attendees. Luncheon attendees will be seated with senior ACNP members affording opportunities for new professional contacts, career advice and involvement in College activities. Reservations are requested so that appropriate seating is available to all luncheon attendees. Please contact Laura Hill, lhill@acnp.org, with questions or to reserve your seat at the luncheon.