



# ACNP Bulletin

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Plenary	1
Director's Notes	2
Distinguished Lecture	3
The Nuts and Bolts of ACNP Membership	4
Member Nominations and Promotions	4
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention	5
2015 Travel Awardees Named	5
Staff Spotlight	5
ACNP Annual Meeting	6
Childcare During the Annual Meeting	6
Important Policy Reminders	7
Neuropsychopharmacology News	7
Dates to Remember	7
Member to Fellow Promotions	8
ACNP Staff Contact Information	8

## 2015 President's Plenary

*Raquel E. Gur, M.D., Ph.D.*

The topic for the Presidential Plenary in the upcoming December meeting is *The Neuroscience of Sex Differences*. It will hopefully contribute to the general context of our efforts to be inclusive and advance women in scientific work by informing on an extensive literature on sex differences in brain - behavior. Such differences are seen in healthy people and in the presentation and course of brain disorders of interest to our members in ways that have potential implications for therapeutics. With this framework in mind, the plenary session will be translational, providing complementary data driven perspectives on a phenotype that is commonly considered simple but turns out to be complex and that interacts with other phenotypes in illuminating ways.

Dr. Catherin Woolley (William Deering Professor, Department of Neurobiology, Northwestern University) will focus on brain disorders variability between the sexes in relation to differential experience versus intrinsic biological sex differences. Intrinsic sex differences in molecular regulation of synapses in the hippocampus suggest mechanisms by which experiences or therapeutics that engage the hippocampus may affect males and females differently.

Dr. Rita Valentino (Professor, Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care, University of Pennsylvania) will examine the neuropsychiatric implications of sex biased cell signaling. The impact of social stress on neuropeptide and corticotropin-releasing factor have been implicated in depression and anxiety. She will describe sex differences in how exposure to repeated stress or to a single severe stress produces long-term changes in the response of these neuronal systems to subsequent stressors.

Dr. Larry Cahill (Professor, Neurobiology and Behavior, University of California, Irvine) will present sex influences on brain function, an issue that has been marginalized for years and is rapidly moving center stage in neuroscience. His talk addresses why this is so, including emotional memory, and why this development is so strongly positive for the future of both men's and women's health.

Dr. Jill Goldstein (Professor of Psychiatry and Medicine, Harvard University) will provide a lifespan perspective characterizing sex differences in development and adult functioning of the human brain. She will highlight how these differences contribute to understanding sex differences in brain disorders and their comorbidity with general medical disorders.





## Conflicts of Interest: Not Just a Concern for Members

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

Over the past ten years or so, we have given much attention to various issues around conflicts of interest. We have put a lot of effort into getting our policies and our practice in line with best practices in our field. We have revised our expectations of our members and of our participating corporations, and I think we now have clear standards that protect us from real and perceived conflict of interest.

However, I want you to know that in midst of all the attention paid to potential financial conflicts between members and pharmaceutical companies, we have not neglected our responsibility to also think about potential conflicts for staff. Unfortunately, the industries of association management, meeting planning, hotels and the hospitality industry in general have had too many examples of questionable, or clearly unethical, behavior in the past. There have been too many cases of association executives and meeting planners making site visits to resort hotels where they had very little expectation that they would ever book a meeting; too many cases of hotels willingly treating executives and planners to free stays at their facilities and giving them gifts while also courting their business; in short, too many cases of blatant conflict of interest in the way business has been done. But thankfully, that is beginning to change, and we want to be on the leading edge of setting new standards for ethical behavior in the way we conduct our business.

For ACNP and Parthenon Management Group, there are several steps we take to ensure integrity in our business practices. First, ACNP has a thorough audit done every year, and even though the audit has a much broader purpose, one of its side benefits is that it gives us an opportunity to review our policies and procedures with a set of outside auditors every year. With their advice over the years, we have developed policies and procedures for handling money, making deposits, paying bills, and reconciling bank statements that are as close to being air tight as anything I can imagine. For someone on staff to find a way to misappropriate money, they would have to be smarter than I am to do it and get away with it.

Another step we have taken that helps in this area is that we have applied for and achieved accreditation for PMG by the Association Management Company Institute. To maintain accreditation, we have to undergo an audit by an outside firm every four years. That audit covers things like our policies and procedures for handling money and our disclosure policies for any involvement we might have with other vendors.

Finally, we have just implemented a new conflict of interest policy for ourselves. I have copied the full policy statement below. Please note that any place that says Parthenon Management Group or PMG, you can substitute ACNP, for that will be our policy for ACNP as well. We will be happy to have feedback from ACNP Council members, from board members of PMG client organizations, or from any of our members regarding this new policy. Our objective is to do our work with the highest level of integrity, and we will gladly accept any advice that helps us achieve that objective.

### Conflict of Interest Policy Statement

#### Part I. The Need for A Conflict of Interest Policy Statement

The need for a Conflict of Interest Policy Statement is inherent in the nature of the business relationship between an association management company and its clients. It is our obligation to place the interests of our clients ahead of our own, to serve them with integrity, to perform our duties and to offer advice that is based on impartial analysis of relevant information. It is our responsibility to eschew pecuniary self-interest as we manage the affairs of clients.

In the reality of everyday business practice, it can sometimes be difficult for an individual to judge if their own actions could inappropriately influence their thinking, their advice to clients, and their decisions on behalf of clients. Some individuals





## Conflicts of Interest

(continued from page 2)

might go to extremes to avoid even the appearance of conflict of interest by, for example, not even allowing a vendor to pay for lunch during a legitimate business meeting. Others might see no problem in accepting a weekend visit at a resort hotel under the guise of a site visit as a possible meeting location in the future.

Because PMG aspires to the very highest ethical standards, we have developed this conflict of interest policy statement as a guide for our employees. Its intent is to provide clear guidance to employees who deal with potential conflicts in their daily activities. The adoption of this Conflict of Interest Policy Statement sends a public message to our clients and the community at large that we are serious about conducting our business with the utmost integrity.

### Part II. Standards

**Section 1.** All employees of PMG should avoid any action which might result in or create the appearance of:

- (a) giving preferential treatment to any organization or person;
- (b) using one's position for personal gain;
- (c) losing complete impartiality or independence; or
- (d) affecting adversely the confidence of the public in Parthenon Management Group.

**Section 2.** No employee of PMG shall solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, gratuity, favor or entertainment or any other thing of non-trivial monetary value (more than \$50) from any person, corporation or group which has, or is seeking to obtain, a business relationship with PMG or a PMG client. Notwithstanding this provision, an employee may accept food or refreshments available in the normal course of a lunch, dinner, or any other meeting or engagement where the employee is properly in attendance for a legitimate business purpose.

**Section 3.** Employees of PMG will be expected to complete the same conflict of interest disclosure statements as client board members, program committee members, or participants in a client meeting must complete. Although it is unlikely that a PMG employee will have conflicts of the types addressed by our clients' policies, we must make those disclosures nonetheless, and if a conflict of interest should exist we must abide by the same policies for resolving that conflict as our client members.

### Part III. Enforcement

Any employee of PMG who has, or may have, a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined in Part II, Section 2, shall inform his or her supervisor and shall state the nature of such interest. The supervisor should document the nature of the potential conflict, and consult with senior management of PMG and the appropriate officers or committee members of the PMG client to resolve the conflict or to remove the employee from the conflicted situation.

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## 2015 Distinguished Lecture

*Raquel E. Gur, M.D., Ph.D.*

Dr. Mary-Claire King (Professor of Genome Sciences and of Medicine, University of Washington) has discovered BRCA1, which transformed the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer and for which she received the prestigious Lasker Prize.

As precision medicine is becoming the calling across medicine, its application in clinical neurosciences can be informed by the experience in cancer research where the approach is achieving initial success. We are fortunate to have Dr. King, a pioneer in cancer genomics, who is in a position to share her tremendous insight on how ground breaking genomic methodology can be applied to our field. Her talk, "From Gene Discovery to Diagnosis and Treatment: Breast Cancer as a Perhaps Unlikely Model for Mental Illness" will give us a captivating glimpse into where our field is heading.

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## ASSOCIATE & NEW MEMBER CONNECTION

### The Nuts and Bolts of ACNP Membership

*Daniel Mueller, M.D., Ph.D. & Kay Tye, Ph.D.*

Results from surveys conducted over the past several years indicate that a large majority of ACNP annual meeting attendees and travel award attendees hope to join the College as members in the future. This year's **Career Development Session (Tuesday, December 8th from 1.30-3.00pm)**, is open to all and will focus on the FAQs of applying for associate and regular memberships in the College. The themes of the panel will be to identify qualities of successful applications and to provide information on membership trends in the last several years. The Membership Advisory Taskforce has collected and analyzed data from last years' applications which are regularly presented as poster at the ACNP meetings. Frequent questions by attendees will be discussed, such as how to judge the best moment to apply and how different merits might be weighed against each other (e.g., publications vs. grant track records).

Furthermore, the group will also discuss how to attract and encourage junior scientists and how to find ways to attend meetings. This includes how to 'break the ice' with College members – in other words, how can someone find ways to interact with more senior members of the College and what the College does to promote applications from females and minorities. Given that travel awards serve to facilitate entrance to the ACNP, another emphasis will be to discuss strategies for successful applications for travel awards. Related to these topics, the group will discuss how an applicant for membership/travel award can show commitment to the College (important criterion for membership) in addition to attending the meeting (since this requires an invitation and therefore can be a 'catch-22').

Last but not least, the panel will discuss how membership in the College dovetails with overall career progression – how can ACNP membership be beneficial for own career plans? Panelists will be Karen Szumlinski, Greg Light, Victoria Arango, David Goldman, Patricio O'Donnell. Moderators will be the Chair and Co-chair of the Membership Advisory Task Force, Christina Barr and Vaishali Bakshi, Daniel Mueller and Kay Tye.



### Member Nominations and Promotions

Nomination materials for new Member and Associate Member applicants and Fellow promotion candidates are available under the Membership tab on the ACNP website, [www.acnp.org](http://www.acnp.org).

As the September 16th nomination deadline approaches, please remember the 2014 change allowing an additional nomination in support of applicants for full membership or associate membership as long as one of the nominations is for a woman or under-represented minority. As the College strives to continue to increase the number of membership applications from these two demographics, we hope each of you will take advantage of this opportunity.

New Members, Associate Members and Fellows will be announced at the ACNP Business Meeting on Wednesday, December 9th. Please contact the Executive Office with any questions at [acnp@acnp.org](mailto:acnp@acnp.org)





## American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Grants

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention was recently awarded \$4 million in grants for their 2014-15 grant cycle and would like to share their 2015-16 application information.

Innovation Grants **applications are accepted from 8/1/15 to 11/16/15**. Applications will be available 8/1 online at <http://www.afsp.org/research/research-grant-information/information-for-prospective-grant-applicants>. That page also has information about the various Innovation grants.

Please share this information with research-oriented colleagues who might have interest their programs, which focus on research in suicide prevention. Should you have any questions, please contact Research Grants Manager, Carl Niedzielski, at [grantsmanager@afsp.org](mailto:grantsmanager@afsp.org).

## 2015 Travel Awardees Named

*Kathleen Merikangas, Ph.D., Education & Training Committee Chair*

*Steve Siegel, M.D., Ph.D., Education & Training Committee Co-Chair*

The Education & Training Committee is pleased to announce the selection of 58 outstanding scientists for the 2015 ACNP Travel Award program. We received nearly 350 applications for the 58 awards, making this yet another year for difficult decisions by the committee. In addition, the ACNP continues to partner with the ADAA (Anxiety Disorders Association of America) to offer invitations to their selected young researchers to attend the meeting.

As a vitally important portion of the travel award program, we strive to assign each awardee a mentor during the week of the meeting. Year after year the committee receives positive feedback from these young scientists who value the experience; many consider the mentorship aspect of the travel awardee program as one of the most meaningful parts of the Annual Meeting. The Travel Award program remains a key pipeline for the College, as it brings the best and brightest up and coming scientists in the field to participate in the Annual Meeting, some of whom will eventually go on to become members. If you would like to serve as a mentor during this year's meeting, please contact Kelly Phy at the Executive Office, [kphy@acnp.org](mailto:kphy@acnp.org).

This year's schedule of events for the awardees will include a Travel Awardee reception on Saturday evening, December 5th, and a Travel Awardee luncheon on Wednesday, December 9th.

For a complete listing of the awardees, please visit: [www.acnp.org/annualmeeting/travelawards.aspx](http://www.acnp.org/annualmeeting/travelawards.aspx)

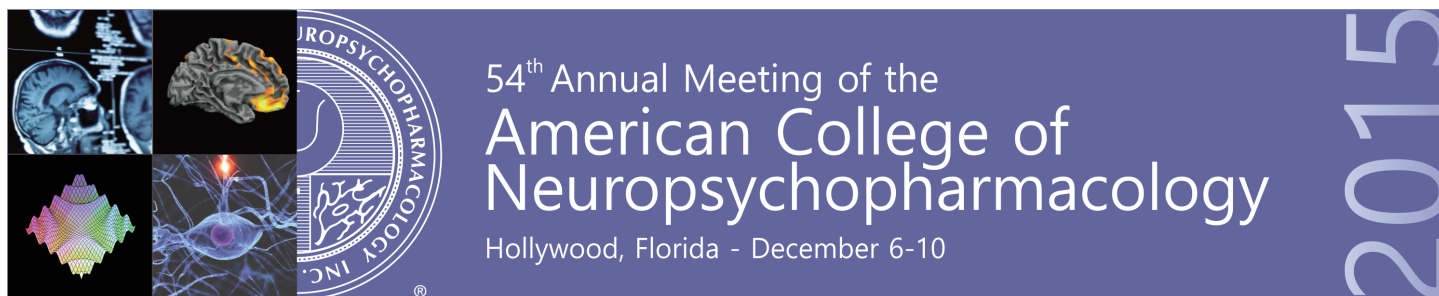
## Staff Spotlight - Meet the Director of Operations

Jacque Loftus joined ACNP in June 2015 as the Director of Operations for ACNP and PMG. In her new role, Jacque will be working with each of the PMG managed associations, through the project managers, to ensure their annual work plan and strategic goals are met.

Jacque was introduced into the hospitality industry at a young age and has always been passionate about serving others. While working at Walt Disney World at the Disney MGM-Studios, she completed a degree in Organizational Communication with a minor in Business Administration from the University of Central Florida. After graduation, she worked for the McDonald's Corporation as a Restaurant Manager for the premier McDonald's on Walt Disney World property. In 2002, she relocated to Nashville, Tennessee and was fortunate to continue her hospitality career as the Operations Manager for the Grand Ole Opry House where she managed front of the house operations for the Grand Ole Opry, 36th Annual CMA Awards, Nashville Star television show, Wheel of Fortune and the World Famous Radio City Rockettes. In 2003, she transferred to Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center where she spent the next 12 years working in different aspects of the hotel.

Jacque was born and raised in Iowa and still looks forward to trips up north to spend time on Lake Okoboji with family and friends. When not working, her free time is spent enjoying her family; husband, Jay, son, Braedon, and 4 month old daughter, Bailey.





## ACNP 54th Annual Meeting, December 6-10, 2015

Once again members and guests will be welcomed to Hollywood, Florida by ACNP staff along with the familiar faces at the Diplomat Resort. The Diplomat may have new ownership and a new name, but their commitment to excellence and enthusiasm for the ACNP meeting remain the same. As we look forward to December, please read below for important reminders.

### Registration

Registration for the 54th Annual Meeting opened in June. Please register by October 30th; the early discounted registration rates increase by \$50 on October 31st.

Member Registrations are completed on the ACNP website. To access the registration site, members must login to the ACNP website, [www.acnp.org](http://www.acnp.org), select "Annual Meeting" and click "Registration."

Invited Guests will receive a link to the registration site in their invitation letter. Guest invitations are inclusive of poster sponsorship.

### Hotel Reservations and Air Travel

All hotel reservations will be completed on the hotel site. To reserve your hotel room, click on the link contained in your registration confirmation email. The link will take you directly to the hotel website where you will can access the ACNP rooming block and make your reservation directly with the hotel. The final day for hotel reservation acceptance at ACNP's discounted rates will be October 30th; 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 has partnered with Direct Travel, Inc. (formerly Caldwell Travel) for airline travel. Please contact Javonna Williams, [jawilliams@dt.com](mailto:jawilliams@dt.com) or Sue Shapiro, [SShapiro@dt.com](mailto:SShapiro@dt.com) or call toll-free 800-229-3344.

### Invitation Banks

**General Invitation Bank:** Members may request to use for an early career researcher who is within 10 years of their last training or someone with a first time R award or K award. Invitees from this bank may present a poster. There is an initial limit of one extra invitation per member. Members may request additional invitations, however the invitees name will be placed on a waitlist and the invitation will only be extended if there are remaining invitations in the bank closer to the meeting date.

**Diversity Invitation Bank:** 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.

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

### Childcare During the Annual Meeting

During the 54th Annual Meeting, KiddieCorp will again provide a children's program. KiddieCorp is in its twenty-ninth year of providing high-quality children's programs and youth services for meetings and special events. They take watching your children very seriously. KiddieCorp has enjoyed long-time partnerships with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Autism Society of America and countless others, which has helped establish KiddieCorp as a premier provider of event children's program services.

Their goal is to provide your children with a program *they* want to attend while providing you with that critical "peace of mind" feeling so *you* can attend your meeting activities.

The children's program is for children ages 6 months through 12 years old and will be located at the Diplomat Resort in Hollywood, Florida. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.kiddiecorp.com/acnpkids.htm>



## Important Policy Reminders

As you are making plans to attend the 54th Annual Meeting, we ask you remember these important College policies.

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.

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 obtain permission to use the College name for such purposes, please contact Laura Bersacola-Hill ([lhill@acnp.org](mailto:lhill@acnp.org)) who will have your request reviewed by the appropriate committee and/or Council.

## Neuropsychopharmacology News

This summer brought a change to the team of Associate Editors at *Neuropsychopharmacology* (NPP). Associate Editors manage the review process for manuscripts in their area of specialization and make recommendations to the Editor-in-Chief.

On July 1, long-time Associate Editor Mark Geyer, Ph.D. rotated out of his role at NPP. “Mark was a key member of Jim Meador-Woodruff’s team of senior editors, and originally agreed to stay on for an additional year to facilitate the transition in journal leadership”, said Editor-in-Chief Bill Carlezon. “I am forever grateful to him for instead serving for almost 3 more years, and being a constant source of insight and wisdom”.

Dr. Geyer’s departure created a slot that has been filled by Yavin Shaham Ph.D., who brings expertise in the neurobiology of addiction and stress, as well as considerable experience in publishing, having served for many years as a Senior Editor at *The Journal of Neuroscience*. “Despite that workload, Yavin was perpetually one of NPP’s Top 10 reviewers, and among our hardest working Editorial Board Members”, said Carlezon.

Senior editors are appointed as needed by the Editor-in-Chief, and are ACNP members who have a track record of exceptional commitment to the journal. There are also annual changes in the Editorial Board, which is considered a group of special advisors to the senior editors, to ensure that the journal stays current during a time of rapid advances in psychiatry.

Breaking news: During its recent summer meeting, ACNP Council approved a proposal from NPP leadership to eliminate Authorship Disclosure Signature Forms for accepted manuscripts. “These forms often took some of the joy out of having a paper accepted at NPP, and we are delighted that we have been able to create a process that makes them redundant”, said Carlezon. “We intend to launch the new process, and phase out the forms, as soon as possible”.



Mark Geyer, Ph.D.



Yavin Shaham, Ph.D.

## Dates to Remember

September 16th	Deadline for Membership Nominations/Promotions
October 30th	2014 Meeting Pre-Registration Deadline; fees increase by \$50
October 30th	2014 Annual Meeting Hotel Reservation Deadline

**ACNP EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

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**Main Phone: 615-324-2360****Fax: 615-523-1715****E-mail: [acnp@acnp.org](mailto:acnp@acnp.org)****Member to Fellow Promotions**

Article III, Paragraph 3 of the ACNP Constitution states, "Fellows shall be chosen from Members who have not less than five years standing as Members and who have made substantial contributions to the College and to the field of neuropsychopharmacology."

Over the past 5 years, the promotion process has been streamlined with the goal and expectation of significantly increasing the number of Members promoted to Fellow status. The Membership Committee and ACNP leadership encourage you to consider applying for promotion.

Certain important ACNP committees such as the Nominating Committee and Ethics Committee are restricted to participation by Fellows only and, of course, only Fellows are eligible to be elected to Council. Becoming a Fellow provides both the recognition you deserve for your service to the College as well as the opportunity to participate in these leadership positions.

Contributions to the College are primarily, but not exclusively, defined by the following:

1. Has attended at least 60% of the Annual Meetings since becoming a member (mandatory minimum for automatic promotion)
2. Has presented at 2 meetings within their term as a member. (Poster presentations included)
3. Is a reviewer in good standing with Neuropsychopharmacology.
4. Has served on a committee or has volunteered to serve.
5. Has served as a mentor or has volunteered to serve.

*Members who meet the minimum 60% attendance plus 3 of the 4 additional contribution criteria, will be automatically promoted to Fellow.*

If you are interested in applying for a promotion and have not already requested documentation of your ACNP contributions, please contact Laura Hill ([lhill@acnp.org](mailto:lhill@acnp.org)).

**ACNP Staff Contact Information**

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**[www.acnp.org](http://www.acnp.org)**

**To submit items to the Bulletin, please e-mail Laura Hill at [lhill@acnp.org](mailto:lhill@acnp.org)**