## American College of Neuropsychopharmacology Supporting Corporation Roles and Responsibilities

The ACNP values the contributions of its supporting corporations to its scientific dialogue, but also wants to ensure that those corporations and their representatives are committed to the highest level of ethical behavior in scientific research. In its strategic plan the ACNP has committed itself to establish "effective, collaborative relationships with patient advocacy organizations, government, academia, and industry that help to advance the scientific goals of the College," and to serve as "a catalyst for industry, government and academia to work collaboratively to advance discovery and to disseminate scientific advances."

The ACNP Constitution and By-Laws set forth the designation of a Supporting Organization as a category of membership in the College and provide a basic description of a Supporting Organization. The goals of the ACNP in its relationships with supporting corporations are to:

- Enable and encourage supporting corporations to contribute to the scientific dialogue within the College.
- Facilitate scientific collaboration between ACNP supporting corporations, government, and academia with the goal of advancing the mission of the College.
- Promote excellence in the scientific enterprise within ACNP supporting corporations through the interactions of scientists from supporting corporations with ACNP members.
- Inspire confidence in the public and scientific community at large that scientific research presented at ACNP meetings or published in ACNP publications meet the highest ethical standards. This includes research supported by pharmaceutical companies, including research done in collaboration with academic institutions, academic investigators and/or government.
- Secure appropriate levels of unrestricted funding through supporting corporation fees to allow the College to carry out the programs and activities necessary to achieve its mission.
- Manage the relationship between the College and its supporting corporations in such a way that assures College members, the supporting corporation management, and the public at large that any real or perceived conflict of interest are either eliminated or appropriately managed.

The ACNP encourages its supporting corporations to send their best scientists to the ACNP Annual Meeting and to designate an individual (who has not been elected to membership in the College) as their official representative to the ACNP. To further their scientific interaction with ACNP members, the College encourages supporting corporations and their designated representatives to submit proposals for scientific poster and panel sessions at the Annual Meeting. The College also encourages scientists from its supporting corporations to seek regular membership, although with the recognition that the rigorous standard of excellence required of members will not be relaxed in any way for such applications. Scientists from supporting corporations to use the ACNP Annual Meeting as an opportunity for marketing to its members. No exhibits at the meeting or advertising in meeting materials are allowed, nor are informal

marketing activities allowed. The College also does not allow supporting corporations to sponsor social events or other non-ACNP authorized activities at the Annual Meeting.

To establish firewalls that protect the College and its meeting from real or perceived industry influence and/or conflict of interest, the designated representatives of supporting corporations do not vote on any ACNP matter. They may not attend ACNP Council meetings, Program Committee meetings, or any other official ACNP meetings in which decisions are made regarding College policy, the content of the ACNP Annual Meeting, or the content of any official College publication. They may be invited to serve as ad hoc members of ACNP committees or task forces, where their input and advice would be helpful, but they do not participate in voting on any official committee (or task force) actions.