



ACNP Bulletin

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Establishing and Maintaining Scientific Collaborations

2017 Career Development Session

Scientific collaborations have become increasingly essential to promote novel discoveries both within and across fields. In-depth interrogation of research hypotheses often requires multiple technical approaches to ensure that strong conclusions may be derived. Further, collaborations can be an important factor to achieve success in obtaining extramural funding at any career stage. Indeed, if basic scientists seek to realize the translational impact of their findings in the clinical setting, collaborations may also need to extend beyond the academic realm and into industry settings. This Career Development Session will focus on strategies and considerations to develop and maintain successful scientific collaborations. The proposed panelists include scientists in both academia and industry and were identified based on their involvement in highly successful collaborative efforts. These individuals include: Shelli Avenevoli, Ph.D. (Acting Deputy Director, NIMH), Dennis Charney, M.D. (Dean of Icahn School of Medicine Mount Sinai), Kay Tye, Ph.D. (Associate Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Daniel Umbricht, M.D. (Roche, Translational Leader Neuroscience), and Colleen McClung, Ph.D. (Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine). Speakers will address the following topics: approaching potential collaborators, setting expectations, distributing research responsibilities once collaborations are underway, discussing and managing considerations for authorship, planning ahead for techniques/approaches to resolve

conflicts, and devising strategies for collaborations across fields and/or across the basic science to clinical continuum. In addition to these primary discussion points, certain panelists will be asked to speak about considerations when collaborating in large group studies (e.g., consortiums) or when collaborating with scientists in industry. Thereafter, the session will focus on the potential challenges of collaborations, with a focus on early career scientists, local institutional/departmental culture, and the perception of independence. Finally, questions from the audience will be taken to promote discussion of this important topic and other related considerations for career development. Drs. Sachin Patel, M.D., Ph.D. (Vanderbilt University) and Christie Fowler, Ph.D. (University of California, Irvine), members of the Membership Advisory Task Force, will moderate the discussion. In sum, this panel will provide concrete insight into strategies, principles, and practical tips for both junior and senior investigators to effectively initiate and maintain positive academic relationships to promote scientific discovery.