

ACNP Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 10, 2020
11:00am – 1:00pm Eastern

Linda Brady, Presiding

Carrie Bearden
Ellen Leibenluft
Helen Mayberg
Mary Phillips
Diego Pizzgalli
Trevor Robbins
David Rubinow
Rita Valentino
Marina Wolf
Carlos Zarate

Executive Director: Sarah Timm
Staff: Erin Shaw

Apologies: Maria Oquendo

Ad Hoc: David Kupfer

Conflict of Interest Forms were reviewed prior to start of the meeting by Linda Brady, President, Rita Valentino, Secretary, and Sarah Timm, Executive Director per the Conflict of Interest Policy for Council.

****CONFIDENTIAL****

- 1. 2021 ACNP Annual Meeting** – Council requested to have the Virtual Meeting Task Force continue its work in 2021 to consider hybrid options for next year's meeting and aspects of the program that could be virtual. There was positive feedback on the recorded sessions and the poster audio recordings. Council suggested that we continue those in future meetings. It was noted that some of the posters had low resolution. Next year, staff will encourage poster presenters to upload a high-resolution photo or use a PDF. As we are unsure where 2021 will be with the pandemic and a vaccine, S. Timm suggested that Council should make a decision during their spring Council Meeting if the 2021 Annual Meeting should be in-person, hybrid or virtual.
- 2. 2025 ACNP Annual Meeting Location Discussion** – S. Timm reminded Council that the 2024 meeting will be in the west so we would need to look at locations in the east for the 2025 meeting. Currently, it is a challenge to receive proposals from hotels as a lot of the hotels have furloughed sales staff due to the pandemic. S. Timm advised that she was hesitant to move forward with choosing a 2025 venue and location until we finalize our plans for the 2021 meeting as we may need to shift that contract to our next open year. The proposals we have received to date are from several properties in Orlando, not including last year's hotel, and

in Tampa, which is the same location as the 2023 meeting. S. Timm advised that the Executive Office plans to do site visits at several venues in Orlando, Tampa and San Juan. The main feedback received from Orlando as a location was that the property did not have any restaurants outside the hotel in walking distance. S. Timm noted that there are several other hotels with entertainment and restaurants in walking distance. S. Timm informed Council that she hopes the Diplomat will be an option again in the future as a venue; however, at this time they are completely closed. She advised the Diplomat was sold in June during the pandemic and has not contracted a management company at this time. She is unaware when they are planning to reopen the hotel. Council agreed to wait until the Executive Office has more information for selecting a location.

3. ***Liaison Committee Proposal*** – The Liaison Committee is requesting to send a letter and informational statement on the College to President Elect Joseph Biden and the three co-chairs on Biden’s COVID Task Force to emphasize the neurological and mental health consequences of the disease and their impact on health and that the College has strong expertise in these areas. M. Wolf volunteered to add some additional verbiage for inclusion to strengthen the letter and L. Brady will provide her final review after. Council also suggested to give the letter to the American Brain Coalition and to encourage them to send a letter as well. It was also encouraged to inform SfN and SOBP to send letters. As the task force is currently being assembled, it is important to send the letter from the College as soon as possible. Once the letter is finalized by L. Brady and M. Wolf, S. Timm will inform the Liaison Committee, send the letter, and inform the ABC.
4. ***Microaggressions at ACNP Annual Meeting*** – During the study group session, *The Mega Impact of Microaggressions: Insights and Practical Solutions*, some attendees stated they had experienced microaggressions at the ACNP Annual Meeting and asked if there was a way to report this. Maria Oquendo was in this session and reminded attendees of ACNP’s Code of Conduct. Council agreed to place this on the first Executive Committee call in 2021 to request additional information and feedback from M. Oquendo as she was unable to join the call. It was also suggested to request feedback from others in this session and from the virtual meeting.
5. ***Membership Committee Process Feedback*** – C. Zarate has spoken with one applicant who provided some feedback on Associate Membership. The applicant is a current Associate Member and questioned why there was a seven-year time limit on Associate Membership as it is hard with a family, clinical and teaching responsibilities to be involved with the College. It was also noted that Associate Members do not have the invited guest privilege and can only invite trainees to the meeting from the invitation banks. Council discussed applicant’s feedback on the Associate Membership term. Council discussed if the time limit should be extended or if Associate Members could apply for an extension if they have extenuating circumstances that would qualify. S. Timm noted that either option would be a bylaw change. It was suggested to have the chairs of the Education and Training Committee, chairs of the Membership Committee and D. Pizzagalli review options. It was stated that it is the clinical investigators who may have challenges with this time limit as they must balance research, patient care, and

personal life. Council discussed providing Associate Members an invitation to extend for the meetings; however, noted that the size of the annual meeting is a concern. Council requested to review the data on how many Associate Members do not make the transition to full membership from the past few years. The Executive Committee will review this data on a future call before presenting to the full Council. Council will decide if a change to the bylaws is needed based on how much of the Associate Membership this is impacting.

6. *Presidential Initiatives for 2021* – L. Brady shared the following presidential initiatives for 2021 during the Business Meeting.

Focus on:

- Advance the mission of the College: foster cutting-edge basic, translational and clinical science leading to the development of novel treatments for psychiatric and substance use disorders — in the scientific program and journal
- Vitalize the College by embracing diversity and inclusion of minority investigators and their research perspectives in the College's membership and on its Committees and Taskforces
- Enhance collaboration and communication among key stakeholders — academia, industry, biotech, regulatory agencies (FDA), advocacy groups, and NIH — to bring new interventions to those in need

Specifically, through existing committees or taskforces or new taskforces if supported by Council:

- Promote novel technologies developed through the BRAIN initiative to enable dissection of the heterogeneity within brain and behavioral disorders
- Support collection of rigorous, high-quality, openly shared multi-modal biomarker and clinical data to identify circuits and pathways for intervention
- Clinical research: solicit strong clinical research for submission to the ACNP program through outreach to key clinical research societies
- Animal research: work to improve the way animals are used in research and inform the community about the value of animal research

M. Wolf advised that a few years ago, Steve Hyman and she, with advice from Council and others, created a list of biotech companies working in our field to engage to attend the ACNP Annual Meeting. She stated it was a small list and that, although some initial contacts were made, nothing of substance emerged from this effort. The Executive Office will send the list to L. Brady to review to see if she has another strategy to consider. Council also questioned if L. Brady had specific ideas on how to increase the representation of URM's in the meeting as there is a pipeline issue in the field. It was suggested to involve the current chairs and past chairs of the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force to have a strategic discussion. It was also suggested to engage with SfN and other societies with the same initiative for outreach. It was also suggested for every member of Council to make a personal connection with three URM's at the annual meetings. C. Bearden volunteered to brainstorm more about this as a Training Director. Council discussed hosting a mini retreat with members of Council, URM's, Training Directors, etc. to discuss more practical solutions. The first retreat would be to explain the history of the College with the background and challenges with a second retreat that would request

their input to move in a novel direction. The Executive Office will develop a document with all the previous efforts for diversity using M. Wolf's blog from last year. It was stated the authors of the recent piece in NPP regarding black ACNP membership would be good to include. The Executive Office will also place together a list of the URM's that attended the ACNP Annual Meeting, and request Council to identify people we would want to include in the retreats. The Executive Office will draft an email invitation for review by Council on the first Executive Committee call in 2021.

Council also discussed starting a task force on clinical research to encourage and solicit strong clinical research in the annual meeting. It was suggested to review the data on past panels from the Program Committee. It was also suggested to contact key clinical research societies such as ASCP. L. Brady volunteered to discuss with the Program Committee chairs along with the discussion on URM's. It was suggested for L. Brady to contact ASCP as well.

Information Items:

- 7. *Final Decisions on Use of Funds*** – Council approved funding the following mission driven projects during their meeting on Sunday.
 - a. *Education Integration Workgroup*** – Council approved the Education Workgroup's proposal to collaborate with SOBP and the Deeda Blair Initiative to provide support to the NNCI neuroscience education proposal. (\$35K for three years)
 - b. *Americans for Medical Progress and Biomedical Research Awareness Day*** – Council approved the proposal to support the ACNP/AMP BRAD Fellowship for an additional three years (\$13K – 2021, \$10K – 2022, \$10K – 2023)
 - c. *ACNP Support for American Brain Coalition*** – Council approved the ABC proposal to provide \$15K support in 2021.
 - d. *Diversity Proposal*** – The Executive Office to follow up with the Student National Medical Association and the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students to see if there are opportunities the College can work with these groups and any others that Council recommends providing funding/sponsorship.
- 8. *2021 Summer Council and Program Committee Meetings*** – The summer Council Meeting will be held virtually on Saturday, July 17, 2021 from 10:00am – 2:00pm Eastern. The Program Committee will meet virtually on Saturday, July 10, 2021.
- 9. *2021 EC/Council Call/Meeting Schedule*** – Council reviewed the 2021 call/meeting schedule.