Demystifying the ACNP Membership Application Process

2020 Membership Advisory Task Force Report

Mission and Goals:

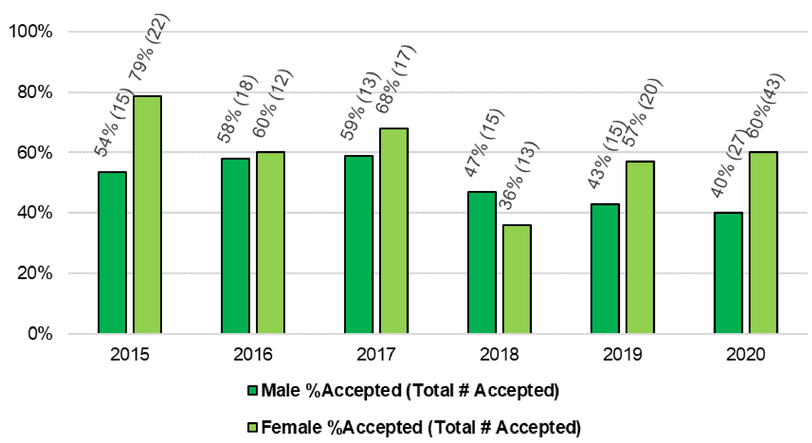
- Reach out to early career researchers who might consider membership in ACNP and track interest among past travel awardees.
- Enhance the experience of individuals who are new members in the College.
- Increase transparency of the overall membership process.
- Develop ways to increase mutual exposure and exchange ideas among future members, new members and established members.

Methods:

- Develop programs to engage Associate Members and past ACNP travel awardees.
- Conduct annual surveys to evaluate impact of new initiatives and changes over the past year.
- Prepare and disseminate information relevant to prospective ACNP Members at the annual meeting, in the newsletter, on the website and through personal communications.
- Gather and present information and data on membership statistics at the annual meeting.
- Interview Council Members and Membership Committee Members to capture various perspectives concerning Associate Members

Membership Application Statistics 2015-2020

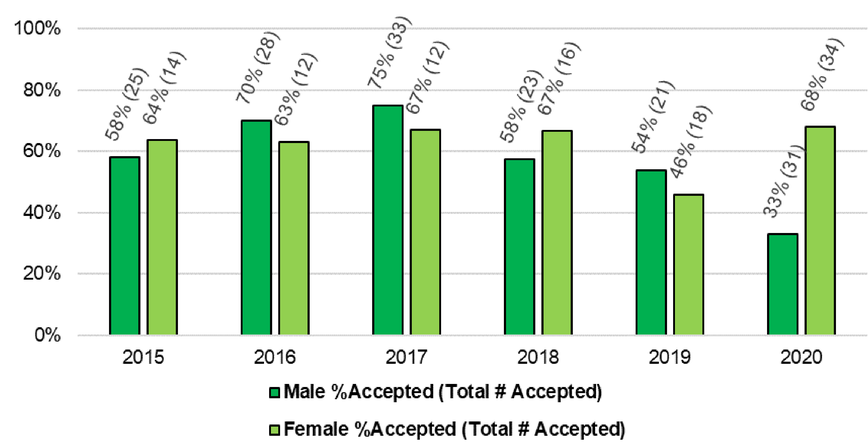
Associate Member Acceptance Rate



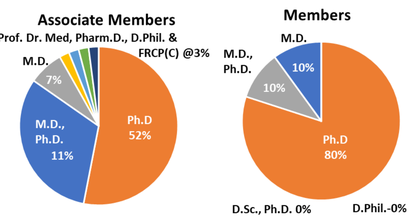
MEMBERSHIP CONSIDERATIONS:

- The number of available new membership slots is calculated based on the guidelines outlined in Article III of the ACNP By-Laws.
  - Base number of open slots each year- **45.**
  - Plus the number of deaths in the previous year.
  - Plus the number of approved for Emeritus in the previous year.
  - Plus the number of members expelled or resigned in the previous year.
  - Equals total new Member and Associate Member slots available.
- Size and quality of applicant pool can vary from year to year.
- There are a limited number of member slots to be filled each year. ACNP Bylaws are designed to preserve the small, intimate nature of the organization.
- The number of available membership slots increased for 2014 applicants
- Number of female applicants may be increasing due to recent policy change allowing members to nominate more than one candidate when the second nominee is a female or minority.

Member Acceptance Rate

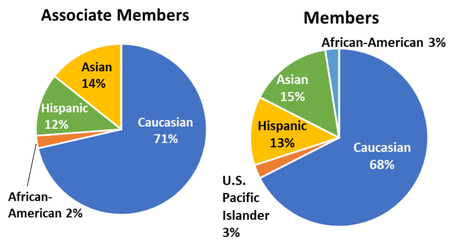


Degree Type-Accepted

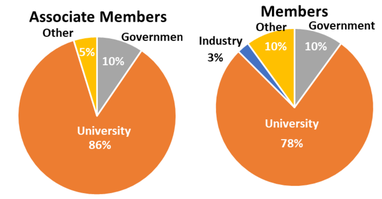


2020 New Member Facts

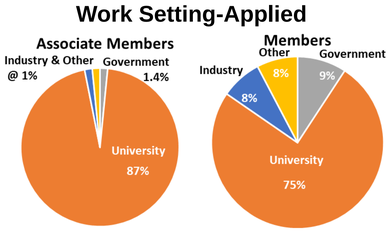
Ethnicity - Accepted



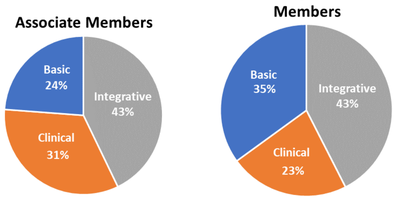
Work Setting-Accepted



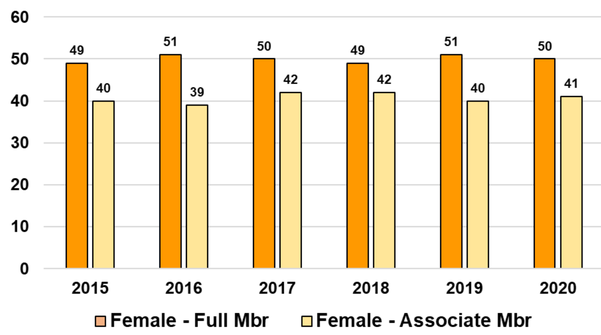
Work Setting-Applied

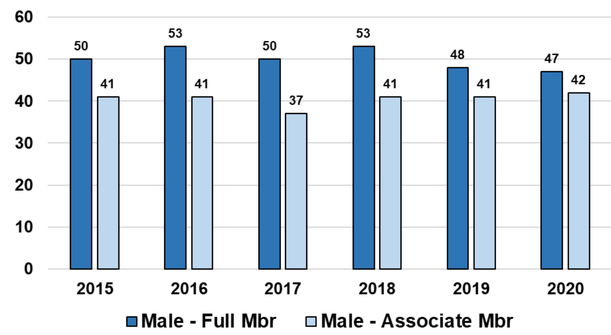


Research Area-Accepted



Mean Age





Summary of Task Force Activities

- Present posters at Annual Meetings to share survey results and statistics about recent membership classes.
- Develop and write information pieces such as membership FAQs for posting on the website and for inclusion in the printed Bulletin.
- Individual email correspondence with past Travel Awardees to follow up after annual meeting and to introduce/reinforce role of Membership Advisory Task Force.
- Interview Council Members and Membership Committee Members to capture various perspectives on issues related to Associate Members.
- Plan and implement Career Development Sessions during past Annual Meetings focusing on topics selected by Associate Members.

2019 Session: *"Striving for Success as Faculty in Academia"*

Tuesday, December 10th 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

- Short-term goals of the committee based on feedback from survey responses include focusing this year's panel on the membership process.
- Host reception during Annual Meeting to welcome Associate Members, enhance networking opportunities and promote access to Council.
- Report to Council about the perceptions/needs of individuals considering membership application and identify strategies to address possible barriers.

Survey Data 2020

Percent with Affirmative Response ("Very Much"/"Much" or "Yes")	Trainees	Past Travel Awardees
	2020	2020
I feel it is easy to contact someone when I have a question about ACNP	79%	89%
How would you rate ACNP in terms of how welcoming you feel the College is for potential members?	62%	69%
Do you intend to apply for ACNP full membership in the future?	76%	88%
Do you anticipate you will achieve full membership the first time you submit an application?	7%	14%
Do you anticipate you will eventually achieve full membership status, even if it requires several rounds of application?	72%	87%

Membership Advisory Task Force

Shin-ichi Kano, M.D., Ph. D, Chair
Mercedes Perez Rodriguez, M.D., Ph.D., Co-Chair
Christie Fowler, Ph.D.
Doo-Sup Choi, Ph.D
Julia Sacher, M.D., Ph.D
Myrna Weissman, Ph.D
David Hsu, Ph.D
Amy Janes, Ph.D
Karen Szumlinski , Ph.D
Natalie Zahr , Ph.D
Lin Mei, M.D, P.h.D
Michael Stevens, Ph.D
Consuelo Walss-Bass, Ph.D
Judith Ford, Ph.D

Task Force Members wish to thank ACNP Council for the development and support of the Membership Advisory Task Force. We are delighted that in response to concerns from ACNP leadership, and with input from the membership and a pool of potential members, changes have been implemented to the ACNP to encourage active participation of early career members who represent future members of the College. For questions, please contact acnp@acnp.org.