

**ACNP Council Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 24, 2022**  
**2:00pm - 3:00pm Eastern**

**Participants:**

**Carlos Zarate**  
**Kerry Ressler**  
**Helen Mayberg**  
**David Rubinow**  
**Rita Valentino**  
**Linda Brady**  
**Mary Phillips**  
**Diego Pizzagalli**

**Ellen Leibenluft**  
**Bill Carlezon**  
**Marina Picciotto**  
**Carrie Bearden**  
**Colleen McClung (elect)**  
**Sarah Timm, staff**  
**Erin Shaw, staff**

**Minutes:**

**1. 2022 Annual Meeting Task Force Proposals** – The Annual Meeting Task Force, chaired by Judy Ford, recommended the following proposals regarding the 2022 Annual Meeting.

- **Member Annual Meeting Attendance Requirement:** *As a reminder, Council waived the annual meeting attendance requirement for members and Associate Members during the 2020 virtual meeting and 2021 hybrid meeting due to the COVID pandemic. The Annual Meeting Task Force recommended that the College continue to be flexible as some universities/institutions are still not allowing travel, and it is hard to attend in-person for the members who reside outside the United States and face travel restrictions. However, the task force did agree that the College needs to continue with its Bylaws and proposed to require members to attend the annual meeting either in-person or virtually.*
  - Council approved this recommendation.
- **Vaccinations Required for In-Person Registration:** *The Annual Meeting Task Force proposed to require completed vaccinations for all in-person attendees (scientific registrants and accompanying others) and be required to upload their completed vaccination card during registration, similar to last year's meeting. Booster shots would not be required and would be up to the individual.*
  - S. Timm advised that in 2021, the College required completed vaccinations for all in-person attendees including accompanying others. As the College did not provide childcare at the annual meeting, members did not bring their children to the meeting. It was advised that vaccinations have not been approved for children under the age of 5. Council agreed to require completed vaccinations for in-person attendees including all accompanying others. Unvaccinated children will be allowed in the childcare rooms, but not in the other meeting locations. This will be clearly stated to attendees during registration. S. Timm also stated that she spoke with our attorney who advised that since the ACNP Annual Meeting is a closed meeting for its members and invited guests, it is considered a “private club” and that we can mandate vaccines for our meeting attendees.

- **COVID Code of Conduct:** *The Annual Meeting Task Force proposed for all in-person attendees to attest to the COVID Code of Conduct again for this year's meeting. Council would finalize the COVID Code of Conduct by mid-September, based on the current COVID climate, if in-person attendees would be required to wear masks, if food will be allowed into session rooms, if the food and beverage will be allowed inside the poster sessions, etc.*
  - Council approved this recommendation requesting attendees to recognize that the College will finalize the COVID Code of Conduct requirements closer to the meeting dates.
- **Poster Sessions:** *The Annual Meeting Task Force proposed to place the food and beverage inside the poster hall as we received negative feedback having it separated from the 2021 Annual Meeting. This would be based on if there is a new variant increasing cases closer to the meeting and need to re-evaluate.*
  - Council agreed to place the food and beverage inside the poster hall at this year's meeting unless the need arises that would require the College to follow the same food and beverage safety as last year. S. Timm advised that there is not as much flexibility with spreading out the poster boards as we did in Puerto Rico as the poster session room at the JW Marriott is constrained with space.
- **Drink Tickets:** *The Annual Meeting Task Force proposed to provide two drink tickets for all receptions and poster sessions with alcoholic beverages to limit alcohol consumption as a COVID mitigation strategy instead of providing an open bar.*
  - S. Timm advised this recommendation is out of an abundance of caution. She stated that our bar bill was less in Puerto Rico with requiring drink tickets during the 2021 meeting compared to previous annual meetings with an open bar but not shockingly lower. Council approved the proposal to require drink tickets at this year's meeting.
- **Name Badge Lanyards:** *The Annual Meeting Task Force proposed to provide colored lanyards again for all in-person attendees to communicate people's comfort level with contact. They are proposing to only provide green and yellow as the red lanyards were not as effective during the poster sessions. (Green: high fives and handshakes, Yellow: elbow bumps, Red: wave from a 6ft distance)*
  - Council approved to provide green and yellow lanyards at this year's meeting but requested for different verbiage to be used explaining the yellow lanyard such as "use caution" instead of "elbow bumps". The Executive Office will draft more appropriate language.
- **Virtual Poster Sessions:** *The Annual Meeting Task Force proposed to schedule the virtual poster sessions at the same time as the in-person poster sessions. The virtual attendees will visit the virtual posters, and senior members who are attending virtually will be encouraged to visit the virtual poster presenters.*
  - Council was reminded that the 2021 virtual poster session was held a week after the annual meeting and did not have high attendance. The College received complaints from poster presenters that attendees did not visit their poster and they were unable to visit other posters as they had to be

present in their virtual poster room. One suggestion was to create a sign-up list for attendees to sign-up to attend a virtual poster room. However, it was noted that some attendees might sign-up in advance, and then find it challenging to schedule in their calendar. S. Timm advised Council that the meeting attendees can leave comments or questions for poster presenters in the ePoster Gallery that will notify the presenter of the comments. Another suggestion was to schedule half the virtual poster presenters during the first hour of the virtual poster session and the other half of the virtual poster presenters during the second hour of the virtual poster session. Council requested to take this suggestion back to the Annual Meeting Task Force for more discussion; however, agreed to schedule the virtual poster sessions during the same time as the in-person poster sessions.

- ***Virtual Networking Among Virtual Attendees:*** *The Annual Meeting Task Force proposed to host hot topic roundtables with skilled moderators for virtual attendees; however, will discuss after the poster deadline in early August for an idea of how many virtual attendees there will be.*
  - Council agreed with this suggestion, and S. Timm advised that the task force will do their best to find virtual networking opportunities.

**2. 2022 Annual Meeting** – S. Timm discussed the following with Council regarding the 2022 Annual Meeting.

- ***Final Committee Meetings*** – In the past, committees and task forces met for the last time of the year during the ACNP Annual Meeting. The Executive Office held these committee meetings virtually in October and November during the 2020 virtual meeting and the 2021 hybrid meeting as not all committee members planned to attend the meeting in-person. S. Timm advised that the Membership Committee will meet in-person on the Saturday before the annual meeting. Council approved to schedule all other committee meetings virtually prior to the annual meeting in October and November. The Program Committee will meet virtually after the annual meeting.
- ***Corporate Liaison Luncheon*** – In the past, the College has hosted a luncheon for our representatives attending the annual meeting from our participating corporations as a thank you for their participation in the participating corporation program. The luncheon was held on Wednesday of the annual meeting and was not highly attended. The current president and/or Liaison Committee chair would attend to thank the representatives and speak briefly on the participating corporation program. During the 2020 and 2021 Annual Meeting, a personal email and letter was sent to the participating corporation liaisons from the President thanking them for their continued support. It was suggested that this luncheon could be transformed into a corporate networking session or reception instead to enhance interactions between industry and academia with a formal agenda with goals in mind. Council agreed it was still a good idea to send the personal email and letter from the president thanking the participating corporations for their continued support but requested to charge the Liaison Committee with formalizing how they would like to structure this event for a more fruitful discussion to present to

Council. It was suggested to make sure this event is transparent to meeting attendees.

3. ***Diversity and Inclusion Committee Workgroup Proposal*** – Council reviewed the proposal from the Diversity and Inclusion Committee workgroup on extending annual meeting invitations to the University of Puerto Rico, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), and geographically local universities to Arizona. C. Zarate advised that this would be an additional 30-40 invitations for the HBCUs and geographically local universities to Arizona. R. Valentino suggested to target the American Indian population for students, postdocs, and faculty invitations from the surrounding universities. E. Leibenluft advised that Dewleen Baker, Diversity and Inclusion Committee workgroup member, specifically focused on this population when choosing which universities close to Phoenix to target. R. Valentino volunteered to send information to the Executive Office on who to contact at the University of Arizona to target American Indians. Council approved the Diversity and Inclusion Committee workgroup’s proposals.

*\*D. Pizzagalli abstained from voting on the participating corporation applications as he was in conflict by serving as a consultant for both Engrail Therapeutics and Neumora Therapeutics.*

4. ***Participating Corporation Applications*** – Council reviewed the participating corporation applications for Engrail Therapeutics, Delix Therapeutics, and Neumora Therapeutics. It was stated that Engrail and Delix are more established companies and that even though Neumora is not as established, their mission is in line with the College. It was stated that one of the company’s supporting letters from members were either identical or very similar which means that most likely the members supporting the company only placed their name on the supporting letter instead of making it more personalized. Council suggested to add a clear statement of what the expectation is for our members writing supporting letters in the application requirements. It was also suggested to add a template sponsor letter with a few questions that the member should answer in their supporting letter. Council approved all three participating corporation applications but requested for the Liaison Committee to discuss the suggestions raised for the supporting letter and develop a list of questions.
5. ***Public Information Committee Proposed Amendments to Charges*** – C. Bearden reminded Council that during the December Council meeting, Council agreed the Public Information Committee should discuss new methods of disseminating information to the public and to define who the lay public is. C. Bearden reviewed the proposed amendments to the Public Information Committee’s charges proposed by the committee. She advised that the committee requested to remove the charge, *Determine the audience the College should be reaching with information about the mission of the ACNP and the science of our members*. This charge would be replaced with the new charge, *The audience of the Public Information Committee is the lay public broadly defined which includes mental health consumers and their family members, clinicians, policy makers, educators, and other persons at large*. The committee requested to remove the charge, *Monitor the Neuropsychopharmacology (NPP) social media accounts for materials (articles, podcasts, etc.) that could be further promoted to a lay-person-audience, and work with the Website Editor and ACNP Social Media Manager to devise methods to ensure that such articles are appropriately highlighted via these forums*. The new charge proposed is, *Select two scientific topics each year that are relevant to the research of ACNP members and the mission of the College that will be the annual focus of dissemination to the public. This will*

*include existing information and educational materials from NPP (e.g., podcasts), Advocacy Affiliates, or relevant organizations to the public (e.g., American Brain Coalition, Society for Neuroscience). Lastly, the Public Information Committee is proposing to edit the charge, Work with the Website Editor to develop a social media plan to promote the mission of the College and the annual meeting. The proposed revised charge is, Work with ACNP and NPP staff (Website Editor, Social Media Manager) to develop a social media plan to promote the existing information and educational materials identified by the Public Information Committee as likely to engage the lay public around the two annual topics that the committee has selected. C. Bearden advised the other charges would remain as is. B. Carlezon provided insight as he has served as ex officio to the Public Information Committee for many years as Principal Editor of NPP. He advised that in the past, all efforts of the committee were focused on trying to get a press release from the annual meeting into the popular press. It was agreed that press releases are not the most effective way to communicate science in this day. C. Bearden and B. Carlezon advised that the Public Information Committee selected the CNC Post-COVID Briefing: *The Neurological and Psychological Effects of COVID-19* and the NPP Article, *Choosing the appropriate language to reduce the stigma around mental illness and substance use disorders* by Nora Volkow, Josh Gordon, and George Koob as the two scientific topics for dissemination to the public in 2021. Council approved the proposed amendments to the charges.*

6. **2026 Annual Meeting Location** – S. Timm reminded Council that they agreed to move forward with contracting Orlando for the 2025 Annual Meeting location, and had requested a proposal from San Juan, Puerto Rico for the 2026 Annual Meeting. S. Timm advised that the Caribe is unable to provide the same number of guest rooms for the ACNP block as in year's past as they have already booked another large group over our same dates. This would mean that the College will need to contract with another one or two hotels to accommodate the number of guest rooms the meeting would need. She advised that currently, the Executive Office is researching the Condado Vanderbilt Hotel (which would require a shuttle to the convention center) and the Aloft Hotel (which is in walking distance to the convention center). The Executive Office wanted to bring this to Council's attention as the Caribe was one of the more popular hotels with the nostalgia of past meetings. S. Timm questioned if Council would like to still move forward with the proposal for Puerto Rico or look at other options in Orlando or Tampa. Council agreed to move forward with the proposal from San Juan, Puerto Rico as the 2021 Annual Meeting was a success in the convention center.

#### **Information Item:**

7. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training** – As a reminder, the Executive Committee agreed to provide a complimentary web-based diversity, equity, and inclusion training for all members who are interested through the Opioid Response Network (ORN). The ORN training leans more towards the addiction side of diversity, equity, and inclusion as they are sponsored with a SAMHSA grant. This allows free training for our members. ORN has agreed to provide the two-part training on Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> and Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Save the dates will be communicated to members via email and placed in the May and August Bulletins.