

Council Quarterly Call Minutes
Tuesday, October 22, 2024
2:00pm - 3:00pm Eastern

Participants:

Helen Mayberg

Bill Carlezon

Cynthia Crawford

Neill Epperson

Rita Goldstein

Yasmin Hurd

Colleen McClung

Lisa Monteggia

Marina Picciotto

Kerry Ressler

David Rubinow

Tamar Gur (Associate Member)

Jibran Khokhar (Associate Member)

Dost Ongur (Council elect)

Sarah Timm, staff

Ciana Centurion, staff

Minutes:

- 1. Participating Corporation Applications*** – Council reviewed the participating corporation applications from Autobahn Therapeutics, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, and Gilgamesh Pharmaceuticals. Council voted to approve the applications as participating corporations. The new participating corporations will attend the ACNP 2024 Annual Meeting. It was questioned how the Participating Corporations will be highlighted at the annual meeting. S. Timm and C. Centurion advised that a list of Participating Corporations will be included in the Annual Meeting Program App and on signage. Participating Corporation representatives will be invited to a Meet and Greet event with annual meeting attendees. Council asked that a slide be included in the President’s Plenary recognizing Participating Corporations.
- 2. Advancing MH Stakeholders Meeting*** – K. Ressler discussed his proposal to host an onsite meeting at the ACNP Annual Meeting with industry, academic, and regulatory stakeholders to advance translational biomarkers as a follow-up on last year’s stakeholders meeting. The request is for a room on Sunday afternoon, December 8th that could accommodate 20-30 people for two hours. He advised there would be no financial costs and no staffing requests, and that ACNP would serve as a convener for these discussion with the goal of developing concrete action items, which are aligned with the College’s mission. It was questioned why K. Ressler chose to hold the stakeholders meeting on Sunday afternoon, December 8th. K. Ressler advised that last year’s stakeholder meeting was also held on Sunday afternoon because it was after the PMG Board of Directors Meeting and the Q&A Forum with the NIH Institute Directors. He noted that in the past, they have prioritized the availability of the Liaison Committee chairs and the Executive Committee (past, present, and future ACNP Presidents). He stated that since the meeting is only intended to facilitate discussions for 20-30 people for two hours, it should not impact the rest of the annual meeting attendees. N. Epperson indicated interest in being added to the attendee list for the stakeholders meeting.

H. Mayberg proposed that Council discuss at the December meeting whether a president can have an approved slot by the Program Committee if there is a topic that they would like to champion after their term concludes to ensure continuity. It was noted that ECNP has three-year presidential terms, where the incoming president develops a strategic plan

to work alongside the leadership in their College. H. Mayberg requested further discussion on the concept in December.

- 3. *Gender Equity and Inclusion Luncheon Symposium*** – During last year’s annual meeting, Council agreed to only allow question cards for Q&A during the Gender Equity and Inclusion Luncheon Symposium (formerly Women’s Committee Luncheon), Diversity and Inclusion Luncheon, and Travel Award Luncheon instead of having aisle microphones open for questions. The Gender Equity and Inclusion Committee (formerly Women’s Committee) requested to have both the question cards and the open microphones for questions by audience members with the ability for the microphone to be cut off if an attendee speaks too long or has an inappropriate question or statement. They advised that not having an open microphone takes away empowerment from women in the room.

It was stated that the main failure at last year’s symposium was not the provision of open microphones in the audience, but the lack of the moderator controlling the session. It was questioned whether when an attendee articulates an opinion not complimentary of diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts and that is at a variance of the symposium’s theme, it is acceptable to shut off that attendee’s microphone. It was noted that this may place the College in a difficult position of policing speech. S. Timm advised that allowing the moderator to use their discretion to turn off the microphones may create liability for the College. A distinction was drawn between a difference of opinion, which facilitates further discussion and inappropriate speech, which the moderator should be empowered and expected to respond to. Council approved of having aisle microphones for Q&A during the Women and Gender-Minority Luncheon. They stated that the moderators should be from ACNP and should be advised of the expectations to step in. The moderator should be encouraged to begin with the question cards before moving to open microphone Q&A. Council also agreed that ACNP leadership will be vigilant and present as a backup if an attendee does not adhere to the Code of Conduct. Council will receive a report on these events and discuss whether it is effective to continue to offer this type of discussion at the annual meeting.

- 4. *Strategic Plan Update*** – L. Monteggia and S. Timm provided an update on the new Strategic Plan to be shared with Council in December. L. Monteggia advised that the new strategic plan is a logical continuation of the College’s progress from the previous five years. She stated that the strategic plan has identified five domains for growth and improvement – (1) excellence for College membership, (2) the annual meeting, (3) publications, (4) collaborative relationships to elevate the field, and (5) financial stability and use of financial reserves. The goal to promote excellence for College membership is to include the most respected, diverse scientists focused on disorders of the brain, and these members will present at the annual meeting while working to enhance the careers of talented investigators by providing mentorship and guidance. The goal for the ACNP Annual Meeting is to consistently be acknowledged as an exceptionally stimulating forum that provides attendees with opportunities to easily connect with one another and broaden their understanding of emerging research advances while providing the opportunity for early career scientists to emerge as future leaders in the field. This goal includes tracking the satisfaction ratings of attendees and engagement of membership. S. Timm advised that the task force discussed the size of the meeting and location. She anticipates that the College will continue to hold discussions on these concerns as they develop strategies to further engage its community and provide a path forward that is inclusive. S. Timm noted

that the College increases its membership at by at least 45 individuals each year, exclusive of those members transitioning to fellow. As the meeting continues to grow, Council should expect a bylaws discussion about whether the College should further constrain the base number of membership slots available each year. Regarding publications, the goal is for *NPP*, *NPPR*, *DPN*, and the ACNP website to continue to increase the impact of the journals and their value to membership while disseminating cutting-edge and diverse research in the field of neuropsychopharmacology through the journals, website, and social media. Regarding financial stability and use of financial reserves, the goal is for earnings from investments and investments themselves to first be used towards ensuring the College's stability and then being used to support programs and initiatives that advance activities important to the College's mission. One of the main priorities is to continue to grow revenue and profitability from Parthenon Management Group. Another priority is to examine how much the College is spending through its 'use of funds' initiative to ensure there is no overspending in any one area. S. Timm advised that Council will examine how much the College is spending towards the Travel Award Program at the December Council Meetings. She noted that Junior Level Travel Awardees are often not ready to apply for associate membership after their four years of funding and the need to evaluate ways to close that bottleneck so that the College can grow its junior mentees and catalyze them to membership,

5. ***Technology in Psychiatry Summit (TIPS)*** – B. Carlezon advised that TIPS is a pre-meeting, occurring on Saturday, December 7th. He explained that one of the objectives for TIPS 2024 was to increase visibility of our new journal, *DPN*, and participation by ACNP annual meeting attendees. B. Carlezon stated one way that TIPS accomplished this was by having its leadership review the list of accepted poster presenters. They identified 30 relevant posters and extended invitations to those presenters to also present at the TIPS meeting. It was noted that there is no incentive offered to present and that the College does not subsidize this. TIPS is requesting to add a question in future ACNP poster abstract submissions if the presenter's work involves digital-related approaches to see if they would be interested in presenting their same poster at the TIPS Meeting. B. Carlezon noted that this assumes that TIPS will be affiliated with the ACNP Annual Meeting again, based on the evaluation of TIPS' success this year. Council approved adding a question in future ACNP poster abstract submissions if the presenter's work involves digital-related approaches to see if they would be interested in presenting their same poster at the TIPS Meeting.

Council discussed the future partnership of TIPS and the ACNP Annual Meeting. It was noted that the reason why TIPS is currently affiliated with the ACNP Annual Meeting is because *DPN* discusses the types of innovations promoted by TIPS. It was stated that since the College does not allow for many pre-meeting satellites, it needs to be careful about being exclusionary. S. Timm advised that the College has not received requests for satellite meetings in recent years, but when it did previously, it was from pharmaceutical companies. It was mentioned that is a good idea to hold satellite meetings that promote what the ACNP is about, and that Council can evaluate whether a given satellite meeting is line with the caliber and mission of the College. Council agreed on the importance of developing a policy for how to vet a satellite meeting proposal against the College's mission and strategic plan. S. Timm advised that the Executive Office will work to draft a policy for Council to discuss in December.

6. ***Sober Scientists Informal Event*** – Council was advised that Nikki Zabik and Hilary Marusak would like to host an informal, non-ACNP associated event at this year’s annual meeting. This event will focus on sobriety at the meeting. Both N. Zabik and H. Marusak have both recently stopped drinking in the past year and want to promote sober curiosity in the scientific community. They plan to do this by promoting (via Twitter/X) an informal, quick meet and greet prior to the first poster session to meet other sober scientists. They would also like to provide “Sober Scientists” buttons people can wear on their lanyards. Their hope is to gain traction over the years to have conference support sober social events. It was questioned how this initiative differed from the request Council received from the ACNP LGBTQIA2S+ Sub-Committee last year to promote an off-site event on social media. S. Timm advised that since the event was off-site and involved alcohol, it created liability for the College. She also explained that this request is for the College to retweet their post on social media and that the event will not be listed in the Annual Meeting Program. Council approved this request.
7. ***Annual Meeting Member Invited Guest Invitation Cap Update*** – Council was advised that as of Monday, September 30th, the member invited guest invitation cap of 400 was reached. The Executive Office and several officers have received emails from frustrated members who were unable to use their invitation due to the cap. S. Timm acknowledged that the first and second year of implementation is difficult, but that the College will adhere to this policy unless there is an exceptional situation. In that case, S. Timm will consult with H. Mayberg on the appropriate course of action.
8. ***Scientific Communications Committee*** – B. Carlezon provided an update on the feedback from the Scientific Communications Committee chairs from Council on their proposals. He explained that the first proposal involved allowing members of the press to attend the annual meeting and write articles. It was stated that Council rejected this proposal as the College cannot control what the members of the press write about if invited to attend the annual meeting. It was suggested that the College work with the committee to increase the number of press releases issued from this year’s meeting. B. Carlezon stated that they had suggested that the committee develop an educational piece about a key finding in the field working closely with a science writer. Council agreed not to change course on this matter for this year’s meeting. The sub-committee proposed planning an “Ask Me Anything” forum on Reddit on the topic of strategies from scientists for harm reduction and adolescent childhood mental health with potential experts, Sharon Welch, Kirsten Smith, or Devin Effinger. This would include a video and press release promoting the forum. This proposal was also rejected as there are concerns with how to properly vet these experts and ensure there is no perception they are expressing the viewpoints of the College. The sub-committee believes that this is a way for the College to increase its visibility with the public and there is a way to vet the experts. L. Monteggia noted that in these discussions, there was a lack of a clear ask and a lack of focus on the target audience (i.e., the lay public or other scientists). There was also a concern that the Reddit forum would lead to the promotion of individual research and not focus on the ACNP. Once the Strategic Plan is finalized, Council agreed to provide guidelines/direction to the Scientific Communications Committee on audiences for communication.
9. ***Education and Training Committee Proposal*** – The Education and Training Committee discussed presenting the success of increasing applications and growth of the College’s Travel Award program, past Travel Award funding for historically excluded groups, and

the URM Near-Peer Mentorship Program at meetings outside of ACNP through a poster presentation. The Executive Committee will discuss public presentation for College's programs outside the ACNP Annual Meeting at the December Council Meetings.

Information Items:

- 10. December Council Meetings** – Council members to suggest their priorities for discussion during the December Council Meetings. H. Mayberg has suggested the following:
 - a.** Theme slots for the President in addition to the Plenary and Special Sessions
 - b.** Discussion on the Mid-Level – Senior Leadership Network being drafted by the Senior Leaders Advising on Careers Committee (SLAC) – formerly known as the Emeritus Memoriam Committee.

- 11. FY25NDAA Sign-On Letter** – Council was advised that the College signed on to the letter organized by the Americans for Medical Progress (AMP) urging Congress to strike language in the FY25 NDAA bill that prohibits DOD funding for canine and feline research.

- 12. 2025 URM Near-Peer Mentorship Program** – Council was advised that the College received 24 applications for mentees and 13 applications for mentors for the 2025 cohort. Council was provided with a list of the accepted 2025 cohort of mentors and mentees. The 2025 cohort will meet on-site in Phoenix, Arizona for an orientation session on Saturday, December 7th from 5:00pm – 6:00pm. Council was encouraged to attend the 2023, 2024, and 2025 cohorts' reception from 6:00pm – 8:00pm on Saturday, December 7th. This reception is combined with the Travel Award Reception. The Travel Awardees will join at 6:30pm.

- 13. ALBA Network's 2023 Annual Report** – Council was provided with ALBA's 2023 Annual Report, which highlights their key initiatives, impact, success stories, and lessons learned over the past year.

- 14. National Academies Neuroscience Forum** – Council was provided with a report from Danielle Graham and Sahib Khalsa from the recent National Academies Neuroscience Forum Meeting.

- 15. Brain Health at the Science Summit at the 79th United Nations General Assembly** – Council was provided with a report from Bitu Moghaddam and Sahib Khalsa from the recent meeting.