

**ACNP Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 11, 2024
7:00pm – 9:30pm Mountain Time
Desert Suite 4**

Bill Carlezon, Presiding

Susanne Ahmari
Deanna Barch
Cynthia Crawford
Neill Epperson
Rita Goldstein
Yasmin Hurd
Helen Mayberg
Colleen McClung
Dost Ongur
Kerry Ressler
David Rubinow
Rita Valentino

Executive Director: Sarah Timm
Staff: Erin Shaw

Associate Members: Alexander Harris (Associate Members have voice but not vote)
Millie Rincón-Cortés

Conflict of Interest Forms must be reviewed prior to start of the meeting by Bill Carlezon, President, Rita Valentino, Secretary, and Sarah Timm, Executive Director, per the Conflict of Interest Policy for Council.

B. Carlezon thanked H. Mayberg for all her leadership and guidance over the past year as president. He also welcomed A. Harris and M. Rincón-Cortés as the new Associate Members on Council for 2025. He shared Council's hope to have the Associate Members help demystify what happens during Council meetings and encourages them to write a blog on a regular basis for membership.

1. Future Annual Meeting Discussion

- a. Cap Annual Meeting Attendance at 2,000*** – S. Timm reminded Council of the cap on member invited guest invitations (400) for this year. This cap was implemented on September 30th. As of December 10th, there were 17 members who contacted the Executive Office asking for an invitation after the cap and around five who were frustrated that they could not use their guest invitation. Council reviewed the registration categories with members, then invited guests, and trainees being the largest categories. Council agreed to institute the cap on invited guest invitations again at 400 invitations. S. Timm advised that the Atlantis in the Bahamas will be able to house all attendees on property and that there are

32 restaurant outlets on property. It was questioned if Council should reconsider how many meetings members must attend to remain in good standing to see if this would help attendance. Lastly, it was advised that JP Morgan's pharma meeting will overlap with the ACNP 2026 Annual Meeting and could affect the ability of some of our guests from industry to attend.

b. NIH Invitation Bank – S. Timm reminded that Council updated the NIH Invitation Bank to be for Program Officers only instead of also including extramural scientists. Council reviewed below how many invitations were extended and how many registered for the meeting in 2024 compared to the past two years. Council agreed to continue the NIH Invitation Bank for program officers and suggested to consider inviting the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

- **2024:** 43 Invitations / 30 Registered
- **2023:** 81 Invitations / 48 Registered
- **2022:** 32 Invitations / 26 Registered

c. Proposal to Include a Past President & Committee Sponsored Sessions at the Annual Meeting – Council discussed if there should be a standing session or sessions that either Council or the Program Committee could select for a past president and/or committee sponsored proposals for the annual meeting. In the past, the Animal Research Committee, Constitution, Rules and Ethics Committee, Diversity Sub-Committees, and the Liaison Committee all submit panels, mini-panels, and study groups to the Program Committee for the annual meeting. These proposals are usually not as competitive as other scientific sessions submitted and are often not approved, which can lead to frustration by committee members. Council was reminded that in the past committees had dedicated slots in the program; however, the sessions were not well attended so Council decided to have them compete against other scientific sessions for review by the Program Committee for inclusion in the meeting. It was suggested to have one session that committees could compete for or alternatively, work together on a submission for Council to review. The past president could also have the option to submit a proposal on the theme from their year as president to continue the following year for this session slot. Council agreed they would not want to take away an existing program slot from the Program Committee and suggested to instead use the existing Meet the Expert or Teaching Day sessions for this committee or past president session. Council agreed to ask the committees and past presidents to submit proposals to Council by the April Council Meeting for consideration.

2. ACNP Membership – Council reviewed the Bylaws on how many new members the College accepts each year.

ARTICLE III: Membership Additions

The total number of Fellows, Members, and Associate Members of the College shall not be increased in any calendar year after 2012 by the addition of more than forty-five individuals, plus (from the previous calendar year): (1) the number elected to Emeritus status, (2) the number of Fellows and Members who have died, and (3) the number of Fellows and Members who have resigned or been expelled. Once the total number of new Members and Associate Members that may be accepted into membership has been calculated, it shall be determined by Council how that total number may be divided between new Members and Associate Members. The number of Supporting Organization Representatives may be determined by Council.

S. Timm stated that with the increasing growth of the College membership each year, the College will eventually reach 2,000 members and these members will be able to invite guests to the meeting, growing the annual meeting even more. It was suggested to survey membership to see if they would still come to the annual meeting if Council relaxed the attendance requirements for members as it seems like some members are only coming to the meeting for one or two days and not staying for the entire meeting. It was also suggested to request the data on the age group of members that are not routinely attending the annual meeting. It was advised that some early track faculty members have a limited travel budget, and they might select meetings where they are presenting or are in leadership roles over other meetings. Another suggestion was to eventually have a cap on all categories (including membership) for annual meeting attendance with the option to attend the meeting virtually once the cap is met. After discussion, Council agreed to establish a subgroup of Council to discuss this more thoroughly and thoughtfully. N. Epperson, R. Valentino, K. Ressler and D. Barch volunteered from Council. Council will also invite the chairs of the Constitution, Rules, and Ethics to join.

3. ***Policy on College Reserves*** – Council discussed if a formal policy should be developed on using the College’s reserves. S. Timm advised that the Executive Office tries to keep cash on hand (liquid cash) for up to six months and we have the ability to pull more cash from investments if needed during the year. It was questioned the yearly operating expense for the College. S. Timm advised that it is around \$3 million per year and an additional \$15 million if you include PMG’s operating expenses. It was stated that revenue primarily is from membership dues, corporate participating fees, registration for the annual meeting and from the journals. PMG also gives a contribution of 10% of its pre-tax profits to ACNP. Council agreed there is a need to be more transparent about what we are spending the money on. S. Timm volunteered to write a Director’s Note on this next year. One suggestion for the future is the possibility of reducing our membership dues. It was suggested to have five years in operating expenses in the College’s reserves set aside. S. Timm stated this would be around \$20-\$25 million for ACNP and a portion of PMG. S. Timm volunteered to discuss this with D. Rubinow, Audit/Finance Committee, and our investment advisors to come up with different scenarios where we might need to sustain five years of operating expenses and report back to Council.
4. ***Technology in Psychiatry Summit (TIPS) Update*** – Council was provided with the agenda from the TIPS meeting on Saturday, December 7th. B. Carlezon advised the one-day conference showcased three keynote speakers which included Brenda Curtis, Sam Golden

and Stephen Smith. B. Carlezon advised there were 108 attendees this year compared to 89 attendees in 2023. He stated the meeting attracted between 250-300 attendees when it was held in Boston in the past. He advised that 46 (48%) TIPS attendees also attended the ACNP Annual Meeting this year compared to 21 (23%) TIPS attendees attending the ACNP Annual Meeting in 2023. The goal for TIPS to meet prior to the ACNP Annual Meeting was to bridge the connection to *NPP-Digital Psychiatry and Neuroscience* (DPN); however, the meeting size is growing at a slow pace. It was suggested to invite individuals associated with the Brain Behavior Quantification and Synchronization Program (BBQS) to the TIPS meeting. This program develops tools for high resolution quantification of naturalistic behavior and for synchronization of behavior with neural activity. It was also suggested to send emails to everyone who presented at the ACNP Annual Meeting information regarding DPN if their presentation matched DPN's goals. B. Carlezon advised that TIPS contacted ACNP poster abstract presenters that matched TIPS and received four additional attendees from the 32 they contacted. B. Carlezon advised that the TIPS Steering Committee are meeting in early 2025 to discuss if they prefer to move the meeting back to Boston or request the possibility to meet prior to ACNP next year. B. Carlezon will report back in 2025.

5. ***Discuss Locations for December 2028 or January 2029 Annual Meeting*** – S. Timm advised the January 2026 Annual Meeting will be held in Atlantis, Bahamas, 2027 Annual Meeting in San Diego, and the 2028 Annual Meeting in Atlantis, Bahamas. The next open year is either December 2028 or January 2029. She advised there is a significant increase in expenses with food and beverage when booking in California. The College usually spends between \$850K to \$1M in food and beverage and will spend closer to \$1.3M to \$1.4M in San Diego. The only options in the East Coast besides Florida is Washington D.C., San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Atlantis. S. Timm advised that in San Juan we would meet in the convention center and attendees would be in eight to nine hotels. The options on the West Coast are Hawaii, Denver, and California. S. Timm advised that Kelly Phy and E. Shearon visited the Honolulu Convention Center and Hilton Hawaiian Village. The convention center is around a half mile from the Hilton Hawaiian Village so attendees could walk or take the shuttle. All attendees could be housed at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Another future option is the JW Marriott Desert Springs in Palm Springs, California. They are adding another tower of guest rooms and more meeting space but have not broken ground yet. It was suggested to revisit the embargo against Florida as Florida did answer a lot of needs for meeting there. It was noted that this could be viewed negatively given the current political climate and the work the Annual Meeting Task Force did in 2023 for women and LGBTQIA2S+ attendees. After discussion, Council agreed for the Executive Office to source Honolulu, Puerto Rico, Las Vegas, and Tampa. This will be discussed again in the April Council Meeting.
6. ***Presidential Initiatives for 2025*** – B. Carlezon reviewed his presidential initiatives for 2025.
 - a. Update and formalize ACNP's plan to maintain full activities in the event of revenue disruption – This was discussed earlier in developing a policy for College reserves.

- b.* Promote efforts at an organizational and individual level to advocate for NIH – It was suggested to have tables during the open lunch period for program officers to answer questions on NIH priorities with attendees. S. Ahmari also advised that she has some ideas on how ACNP could advocate for the NIH. It was also suggested to lean into the American Brain Coalition through our use of funds to lobby for NIH as well as the Ad Council.
- c.* Address the growing size of the annual meeting to ensure that ACNP’s most precious attributes are maintained – It was suggested for the Program Committee to consider a balance between prominent senior scientists and early career scientists presenting at the annual meeting.
- d.* Understand the factors that motivate established investigators to attend the annual meeting – It was suggested to ask some of our senior members why they no longer attend the annual meeting.
- e.* Devise a sustained (career-spanning) mentorship program – B. Carlezon advised his vision is for the mentors and mentees to select each other for a sustained program of five years with financial support to attend the annual meetings. This would be estimated to around \$100K over ten years. B. Carlezon will draft a formal proposal and budget to present to Council. It was suggested to utilize the existing URM Near-Peer Mentorship Program with one of the existing mentor/mentee pairs. M. Rincón-Cortés volunteered to work with B. Carlezon on this proposal as she is part of the URM Near-Peer Mentorship Program.
- f.* Establish ACNP’s leadership in outreach programs that reduce stigma and enhance participation in the scientific endeavor – B. Carlezon advised the Harvard Brain Bank is 98% Caucasian and considered ways the ACNP could help reduce the stigma on underrepresented minorities to consider donating their brain for research. It was suggested to work with investigators at ACNP that are already doing this.
- g.* Include program elements that focus on factors outside the brain that influence mental health and digital-based approaches – B. Carlezon advised that he has some ideas for speakers for next year’s President’s Plenary that are doing work in digital psychiatry and neuroscience to consider non-brain factors that are contributing to how the brain works.
- h.* *Explore the possibility of an ACNP “Grand Challenge” award – B. Carlezon suggested a funding initiative that provides targeted support to scientists that need a final push to cross the finish line in a therapeutic approach that aligns with the mission of the College. B. Carlezon’s initial idea is that this program would require the scientist to pay back the College over time and considered more of a high-risk investment. It was questioned if they should be required to pay the grant back. It was stated that Autism Speaks had a similar working model in the past.

Information Items:

- 7. *2025 Summer Council and Program Committee Meetings*** – The summer Council meeting will be held virtually on Saturday, August 9th, from 10:00am – 2:00pm Eastern. The Program Committee will meet virtually on Tuesday, August 5th.

8. *2025 EC/Council Call/Meeting Schedule* – Council was provided the 2025 EC and Council meeting schedule.

The meeting concluded at 9:34 PM Mountain Time.