

*Council Quarterly Minutes
Tuesday, April 22, 2025
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Eastern*

Participants:

*Bill Carlezon, President
Susanne Ahmari
Victoria Arango
Deanna Barch
Cynthia Crawford
Rita Goldstein
Yasmin Hurd
Helen Mayberg
Colleen McClung
Dost Ongur*

*Kerry Ressler
David Rubinow
Rita Valentino
Tracy Bale (elect)
Paul Kenny (elect)
Alexander Harris (Associate Member)
Millie Rincón-Cortés (Associate Member)
Sarah Timm, staff
Erin Shearon, staff*

Minutes:

Conflict of Interest Forms were 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 welcomed the newest members to Council and congratulated them on the election results: Victoria Arango, Tracy Bale and Paul Kenny

Strategic Goal 1: Excellence in College Membership - *The College will 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.*

No agenda items.

Strategic Goal 2: Annual Meeting - *The ACNP Annual Meeting will be consistently 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.*

- 1. 2028/2029 Annual Meeting Proposals – S. Timm provided an overview of the current proposals for the 2028/2029 Annual Meeting venue. She advised that Council must decide during today's meeting on the location of our next open meeting year which is either December 2028 or January 2029. The January 2026 Annual Meeting will be held at Atlantis in the Bahamas, January 2027 Annual Meeting in San Diego, and January 2028 Annual Meeting at Atlantis in the Bahamas. She stated that the 2024 Annual Meeting in Phoenix was the College's last contract pre-COVID, and that venues have increased pricing significantly. The options to consider today are the following:*

The Puerto Rico Convention Center layout has a great floorplan that works well for ACNP, and the food and beverage pricing is the lowest of all the options. However, attendees would be spread among seven hotels with only one or two in walking distance to the Convention Center. The College would have to run shuttles between the Convention Center and the other hotels. The cost to the College would be lower in Puerto Rico compared to other venues; however, it would be more expensive for attendees considering flights and room rates. The hotel costs have risen since the College was last there in 2021.

The JW Marriott Tampa and Tampa Marriott Waterstreet was the location of the 2023 Annual Meeting and would be the most economical option as the College is tax exempt in Florida; however, there are many political considerations in selecting Florida.

Hawaii is the most expensive option for attendees with flights and hotel rates. The meeting would take place in the Honolulu Convention Center and attendees would be housed at the Hawaiian Hilton Village. Attendees could walk from the hotel to the convention center with a 10–15-minute walk; however, the College would still run shuttles. In addition to the cost, a challenge is that they only have availability in late January 2029 with more availability the following year.

The last option under consideration is Las Vegas with three properties for options. The Cosmopolitan has availability in December 2028 or January 2029; however, the January dates would fall over Martin Luther King Day. The Cosmopolitan has a preferred layout where attendees do not have to walk through the casino to get from their guest room to the meeting space or lobby. The second option is the Rio which has transitioned to new management under Hyatt and is in the midst of a \$350 million renovation. The renovation is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. This venue is located off the strip making it a more affordable option for attendees. The last option is the Aria and is centrally located on the strip. It is a more traditional Vegas style hotel.

It was questioned where Nevada fell on the Annual Meeting Location Guideline tiers. S. Timm advised that they are on the same tier as Puerto Rico. It was stated that Council should be considering the financial cost for our guests to attend given the unpredictability of research funding at that time. It was also noted that Council should be cautious before going back to Florida as we just recently canceled the 2025 Annual Meeting in Orlando and the perception of returning to Florida could be negative. However, it was noted that the meeting in Tampa was well received by those who attended, and the city was very welcoming and embracing to our inclusivity efforts. It was questioned if there is a possibility of going back to San Diego. S. Timm advised that California is not comparable in pricing and is more expensive than Hawaii. The College will be spending significantly more in food and beverage when we are there in 2027. It was noted that staying in seven hotels in Puerto Rico is not ideal as that would lose the networking capabilities in being in one hotel. Concerns raised for Vegas is that it is not a healthy environment with gambling and that we could lose attendees in the evening on the strip. Lastly, hosting the meeting in late January would not be ideal for attendees who would already be back teaching again and could be a barrier for Hawaii. After much discussion, there was a motion and second

to select Las Vegas as the location for the meeting and to spend time this year reconsidering Florida for the next open year. Council was all in favor with this proposal. Council preferred the Rio as it was located off the strip; however, agreed the Cosmopolitan would be the back-up. The Executive Office will research further and report back.

Strategic Goal 3: Publications - *NPP, NPPR, DPN, and the ACNP website will continue to increase the impact of the journals and their value to our members while disseminating cutting-edge and diverse research in our field through our journals, website, and social media.*

No agenda items.

Strategic Goal 4: Collaborative Relationships - *Through collaborative relationships with academia, industry, government, and patient advocacy organizations, the College will be viewed as a valued resource and disseminator of information on brain disorders and their treatments.*

2. *Statement on the SPARE Act* – The Animal Research Committee chairs, David Jentsch and Stephanie Dulawa, drafted a statement on behalf of the College on the SPARE Act. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor of approving the statement.

Strategic Goal 5: Financial Stability and Use of Reserves - *Earnings from investments and/or the investments themselves will first be used to ensure the stability of the College and then will be used to support programs and initiatives that advance activities important to the mission of the College.*

3. *ACNP FY26 Budget* – D. Rubinow presented the FY2026 budget to Council. He stated the national financial uncertainty also impacts both the corpus of our assets in terms of investments and as well as the impact of inflation on expenses. The proposed budget for this fiscal year is for \$3.8 million with a \$445K loss. The loss is primarily attributed to the increase in annual meeting costs as food and beverage alone is \$1.1 million dollars. The College may need to consider our use of funds initiative to help cover the meeting expenses or ask for a higher registration fee in the near future. The College's income may be impacted this year if members and their invited guests are not able to attend the annual meetings in person due to lack of funding or if the corporate participating fees are reduced. The College is financially stable and D. Rubinow hopes for it to continue to be this way, but we will need to begin to pay attention to upcoming expenses more carefully. Our use of funds projects mostly involve advocacy, supporting animal research, and supporting past travel awardees and mentorship awards. The money used to fund these special projects come from the dividends and interest from our investments. It was questioned how the size of the meeting factors into this. S. Timm advised that the College loses money on every person that attends the meeting in-person. The registration fee for trainees is \$200 and in 2024 the total cost of the meeting divided by the number of scientific registrants was over \$1,007.71. It was proposed to revisit the suggestion to increase the cost of registration. S. Timm advised the Executive Office will make a proposal for a gradual increase of registration fees for a multi-year plan for Council to review during the summer meeting. S. Timm also advised that Council needs to think ahead on next year's budget as the meeting

will be in California with the food and beverage being even more expensive. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor of approving the budget.

Another budgetary consideration is the ACNP Executive Office building. S. Timm reminded Council that in December Council approved renovating the Executive Office. She advised the new Council members that the College owns an office building which is an asset to the College. The cost to renovate the building is around \$1.3 to \$1.5 million and the College bought the building for \$1.3 million in 2011. In discussing this prior with D. Rubinow, it was proposed to start looking at new buildings in our area outside of Nashville that would have optimal utility and conference space. D. Rubinow advised that PMG is a major source of both revenue and support for the ACNP. S. Timm also advised that PMG pays ACNP \$120K per year in rent for the building. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor for S. Timm to explore the costs of buying a newer building to present back to Council.

4. ***Career Spanning Mentorship Award*** – B. Carlezon provided a brief overview on the proposal for a Career Spanning Mentorship Award. He stated the purpose is to establish a mentor-mentee relationship that is sustained over several years with the mentor being an ACNP Fellow. This would fit in with our efforts to bring back more Fellows to the meeting and encourage them to stay for the duration of the meeting. The award would be offered over a five-year term. B. Carlezon will provide more information and details during the summer meeting for Council's review and approval.
5. ***American Brain Coalition Proposal*** – Council reviewed the proposal from the American Brain Coalition (ABC) requesting \$50K in sponsorship support. As a reminder during the December meeting, Council tentatively approved funding for the ABC, but would like the ABC to address the issues surrounding stigma and develop a plan for the use of funds. B. Carlezon advised that historically the College has supported the ABC. It was also noted that the ABC has been the most visible in advocacy support for the BRAIN Initiative than other organizations. It was mentioned that compared to last year's proposal of \$30K, there is not much difference to allot for the additional \$20K in support. S. Timm noted that the Executive Committee recently discussed how to change the narrative when it comes to research funding and how to advocate for that through the media, and that the ABC could potentially be a part of this initiative once this idea is more flushed out. S. Timm proposed to approve \$30K initially and then have further discussions of providing an additional \$20K once this new initiative of advocacy is further finalized. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor of supporting the ABC for \$30K.
6. ***ALBA/ACNP Partnership Proposal*** – Council reviewed the proposal from ALBA requesting \$36,500 in partnership support. As a reminder during the December meeting, Council tentatively approved the funding proposal but requested further clarification on how the College's contribution would be used to align with ACNP's mission. T. Bale advised that ALBA was formed from FENS and partnered with FENS, SfN and IBRO for support. SfN has reduced their support. Council agreed that ALBA is doing good work but there is a need to increase the visibility of ALBA in the U.S. S. Timm advised that last year the College sponsored the travel award program and interview series, and it may be better

to sponsor their presence at the meeting instead of doing another travel award. There was a motion to support ALBA to attend the annual meeting but not support a travel award given the College has had to change our travel award program when it comes to diversity. This would mean the College would not support the full request of \$36,500. There was a second and all were in favor of approving this proposal.

7. *Brain Health at the Science Summit at the 80th United Nations General Assembly* –

The Executive Committee reviewed the proposal from the European Brain Council to support the Brain Health at the Science Summit at the 80th United Nations General Assembly during a recent meeting with sponsorships starting at \$20K.

There was a motion, second, and all of Council voted against providing sponsorship support for the Brain Health at the Science Summit at the 80th United Nations General Assembly.

Operational/Governance Items

- 8. *Name of Gender Equity & Inclusion Committee*** – As a reminder, the Gender Equity & Inclusion Committee proposed to change the name to the Women+ Committee. Martha Boyd, legal counsel, expressed concern that having a committee name focused on women could be seen as discriminatory. The Executive Committee spent significant time discussing the name and agreed to change the name to the Empowerment Committee. The chair of the committee, Negar Fani, attended the last Executive Committee meeting to express concerns that changing the name to the Empowerment Committee would erase the identity of the committee, as having women or gender in the name sends a positive and empowering message to those members of the College. After much discussion, there was a suggestion to change the name to the Identity Empowerment Committee. The Executive Office asked M. Boyd's thoughts and guidance on the name of Identify Empowerment Committee, and she advised that she appreciated the position of the Women's Committee and how unsettling the recommendations are; however, that continuing to hang on to "identity" in the name may end up being problematic. It was noted the definition of empowerment includes the act of giving someone or a group the authority, power, or ability to do something, or to be able to control their lives. Although there was some support to keep 'women' in the name there was a motion and second to call this committee the Empowerment Committee. 11 Council members approved the motion and two opposed.

Information Items:

- 9. *Annual Meeting Report*** – Council was provided the 2024 Annual Meeting Report.

- 10. *2024 Annual Meeting Carbon Footprint*** – Council was provided the below summary for the carbon footprint of the 2024 Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. The College will pay \$13K to One Tree Planted and \$13K to Charity:Water.

Total Carbon Footprint of Meeting (tons)	1358.89
# of Trees needed to offset this carbon (31 trees per ton of CO2 per year)	42,125.57
# of hectares needed to offset meeting related carbon	16.85
Cost per hectare of trees	\$ 1,500.00
Total Cost to offset the carbon footprint of this meeting	\$ 25,275.34
Cost per person	\$ 16.85

11. Summer Council Meeting – The summer Council meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 9th.

12. 2025 Advocacy Efforts – Please see a [list of advocacy efforts](#) in 2025.