

*Council Quarterly Call Minutes
Tuesday, October 28, 2025
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Eastern*

Participants:

*Bill Carlezon
Susanne Ahmari
Victoria Arango
Deanna Barch
Cynthia Crawford
Neill Epperson
Yasmin Hurd
Helen Mayberg
Colleen McClung
Dost Ongur*

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

Minutes:

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. Potential Participating Corporation Applications*** – In the past, the Executive Office has provided up to two invitations to the annual meeting for interested participating corporations. Not all companies apply to the participating corporation program. S. Timm questioned if Council wanted to continue this policy moving forward as we are placing constraints on the number of annual meeting invitations. S. Timm advised that usually no more than four companies reach out each year as potential participating corporations and that they must be referred by a member. Council agreed to continue this process. The Executive Office will formalize this policy statement and present to Council for final approval in January.
- 2. Marketing Communications Plan for January 2027 Annual Meeting Changes*** – S. Timm advised the Executive Office has been working with the PMG Marketing team to develop a communications plan for advertising all changes in annual meeting invitations and registration for the January 2027 Annual Meeting. The communication plan will take a proactive, thorough, and transparent approach starting with early communications in

November by updating the membership FAQ page, creating a policies and member benefits updated webpage, publishing blogs drafted by our Associate Members on Council, a new membership packet, and direct communication to membership on how the annual meeting is evolving. Staff will have a handout to provide members of changes at the registration desk should they receive questions at this year's annual meeting. A future communication plan also discusses refreshing the College's internal and external brand as an honorific society with the best and brightest leaders in the field. S. Timm encouraged Council to review the communications plan if they have not already.

3. ***Invitations for ADAA, APA and CDI*** – Council reviewed the past three years of invitations extended for the Anxiety and Depression Association of America (ADAA), American Psychiatric Association (APA), and Career Development Institute (CDI) and discussed if they would like to continue these programs in the future given the growing size of the annual meeting. Concern was raised that the College has no control over the number of invitations extended by these organizations, and this is inconsistent with the goal of limiting the number of invited guests. Council discussed requiring these organizations to meet the new invited guest and trainee definitions for their awardees to receive invitations but decided to end offering these invitations along with the booster sessions these organizations are hosting at the annual meeting. The Executive Office will reach out to these organizations advising of this decision and providing time for this transition based on their awardee year and/or contract. B. Carlezon advised that Mark Rapaport is the incoming president of APA and is looking for ways to promote collaborations between APA and ACNP.

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.*

4. ***DPN*** – B. Carlezon advised that *NPP-Digital Psychiatry and Neuroscience* (DPN) has been approved for indexing in PubMed Central (PMC). He stated that once the government reopens from the shutdown, all papers will move over to PMC. The application process for assigning an impact factor has started and has undergone an internal review in Springer Nature which was approved. The DPN team is doing an amazing job with the AI Podcasts and are developing a podcast for every DPN paper published. This effort has been led by Social Media Editor, Sofiya Hupalo. B. Carlezon encouraged Council members to consider submitting their papers to DPN.
5. ***Scientific Communications Committee Update*** – K. Coffen provided an overview on the work of the Scientific Communications Committee and a vendor on audiences and strategies for a communication plan for next fiscal year. She advised the Scientific Communications Committee has identified our key audience segments (scientific community, grassroots communities, and grassroots communities), developed a proposed project plan for 2025/2026, engaged in a partnership with Research!America and their United for Cures Campaign, and began discussions with Stellate Communications about potential social media consulting. She stated the next steps are to meet with Stellate Communications regarding their proposal and scope of work for the next six months,

continue participating in the Research!America campaign for United for Cures, and develop project priorities with a proposed budget for Council's review in January. Additional information was requested on Stellate Communications. Council members who have worked with Stellate Communications for their labs advised that they are fantastic to work with and very professional. K. Coffen advised they will take the complex science and make it digestible for the public. It was questioned what the metrics for success for this project will be. K. Coffen advised that the finalized plan for Council's review in January will list key deliverables and metrics. B. Carlezon thanked the Scientific Communications Committee for their hard work which has been transformational.

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.*

6. ***Participating Corporation Application*** – Council reviewed the participating corporation application from LB Pharmaceuticals. The Liaison Committee subcommittee reviewed this application and recommended approval. There was a motion, second, and Council unanimously approved LB Pharmaceuticals as a participating corporation.
7. ***Advocacy Affiliate Application*** – Council reviewed the advocacy affiliate application from Breakthrough Discoveries for Thriving with Bipolar Disorder, or BD². The Liaison Committee reviewed and recommended approval. There was a motion, second, and Council unanimously approved BD² as an advocacy affiliate.
8. ***American Psychiatric Association*** – Mark Rapaport, President-elect of the APA, has invited the College to submit a symposium at the APA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, May 16-20, 2026. M. Rapaport suggested a symposium that is focused on transitional psychiatry and how translational research is and will continue to lead to advances in diagnosis and treatment. B. Carlezon encouraged any Council members interested in submitting to advise S. Timm and E. Shearon. He stated the official deadline has passed; however, the APA agreed to facilitate an extension.

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.*

No agenda items.

Operational/Governance Items

No agenda items.

Information Items:

- 9. *NPP Contract*** – The NPP contract with Springer Nature will end December 2026. S. Timm is working to renegotiate or send publisher requests for proposals with our consultant, Martin Delahunty of Inspiring STEM Consulting. Initial negotiations have begun with Springer Nature. Further updates will come in January. S. Timm advised that they are working on aligning the contracts with NPP and DPN.
- 10. *Research!America Campaign*** – Council was provided the latest information from the United for Cures Campaign with Research!America.
- 11. *Precompetitive Stakeholders Task Force*** – Council was provided the latest update on the Precompetitive Stakeholders Task Force.
- 12. *2025 Advocacy Efforts*** – Council was provided the list of advocacy efforts in 2025.
- 13. *Update on ACNP-AfCNP Neuropsychopharmacology Schools in Africa*** – Council was provided the YouTube video from the ACNP-AfCNP Neuropsychopharmacology schools in Africa and the school report for 2025. This video was also highlighted in the August Bulletin.
- 14. *2026 Near-Peer Mentorship Program*** – The College received 74 applications for mentees and 22 applications for mentors for the 2026 cohort. The 2026 cohort will meet on-site at the Atlantis Paradise Island Bahamas for an orientation session on Sunday, January 11th from 4:00pm – 6:00pm. Council is encouraged to attend the Near-Peer Mentorship Program cohorts’ reception from 6:00pm – 7:30pm on Sunday, January 11th. This reception is combined with the Travel Award Reception.
- 15. *Global Outreach Scholarship Program*** – The Global Outreach Task Force received 160 applications this year compared to 81 applications in 2024. A total of five scholarships were awarded for in-person attendance for the January 2026 Annual Meeting and 49 extended virtual invitations. The following received in-person scholarships:
- a.** Alessandra Borsini, Ph.D., King’s College, London
 - b.** Boushra Dalile, Ph.D., Ku Leuven, Belgium
 - c.** Ruiyang Ge, Ph.D., The University of British Columbia
 - d.** Suhas Ganesh, M.D., National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, India
 - e.** Tongrui Qian, Ph.D., University of Melbourne, Australia
- 16. *Career-Spanning Mentorship Award*** – The SLAC Committee are collecting applications for the inaugural Career-Spanning Mentorship Award. The application deadline is November 6th.
- 17. *Conduct a Survey for Senior Members (Fellows and Emeritus)*** – The Annual Meeting survey to senior members (Fellow, Fellow Emeritus, and Member Emeritus) closed on October 21st. The results will be used by leadership to devise ways of improving the annual meeting experience for Fellows and Emeritus members in the College. The survey

results will be reviewed on an upcoming Executive Committee meeting and further discussed during the January Council meeting.