

ACNP Summer Council Meeting Minutes
Saturday, August 9, 2025
11:00 a.m. – 3:40 p.m. EST

Bill Carlezon, Presiding

Victoria Arango
Deanna Barch
Cynthia Crawford
Neill Epperson
Rita Goldstein
Yasmin Hurd
Colleen McClung
Dost Ongur
Kerry Ressler
David Rubinow
Rita Valentino

Council-Elect: Tracy Bale (Have voice but no vote)
 Paul Kenny

Executive Director: Sarah Timm
Staff: Erin Shearon

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

- 1. Program Committee Report*** – Staci Bilbo and Tallie Z. Baram, Program Committee chairs, presented the Program Committee report to Council. S. Bilbo advised the committee received a record number of submissions this year and the committee had a very productive meeting on August 5th. Suzanne Haber presented the proposal to the committee from the Senior Leaders Advising on Careers (SLAC) Committee to consider ways to bring more senior members back to the annual meeting and keep them engaged. The committee was in support of their proposal to request luminaries in the College to sit at the tables during the open lunch period for attendees to have small “ask me anything” informal discussions. The SLAC Committee will invite the luminary members and coordinate the tables during the January 2026 Annual Meeting. The committee was not in favor of their proposal for the January 2027 Annual Meeting to allow panels and mini-panels to have an “expert” role that would provide an overview of the topic or provide a historical perspective to the session, similar to the previous Discussant role. The committee also discussed the proposal for the January 2027 Annual Meeting to have a session slot for different Meet the Experts that would run concurrent to each other at a time during the annual meeting that would not take away from the scientific session slots. This proposal requires future discussion. B. Carlezon stated that he plans to work with the SLAC Committee on developing a questionnaire targeted to Fellow and Fellow Emeritus

members asking for reasons they may not attend the meeting and what would interest them in returning to the meeting.

S. Bilbo advised the themes for the President's Plenary session and Distinguished Lecture session will be well received. The committee reviewed and accepted 40 of the 139 (29%) panel submissions, 10 of the 40 (25%) mini-panel submissions, and 7 of the 17 (41%) study group submissions. The overall accepted submission rate was 57/196 (29%). The committee voted to accept 52 of the available 55 slots for the program. She stated a concern of the Program committee was how to balance the meeting program with regard to topic, given that there is no RFP. The committee evaluates the proposals that are received and this year there were 22 addiction-related submissions, and these were ranked highly. Committee members questioned the chairs towards the end of the meeting on strategies to better balance the program. The chairs reassured the committee they would follow the votes of the committee. S. Bilbo advised that the committee added women's health and sex as a biological factor to the list of topic areas as Council pointed out earlier this year that the topic was underrepresented, and all submissions were accepted for these categories this year. There was discussion regarding whether to issue an RFP to membership next year and it was agreed that this should be up to the Program Committee Chair and president. The committee agreed the past few years to not have an RFP and accept the best science submitted. There is also the concern having an RFP will discourage members whose field is not represented in the RFP from submitting a proposal.

Council praised S. Bilbo for a great job leading the meeting and thanked both chairs for all their hard work. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor of accepting the January 2026 Annual Meeting program.

Strategic Goal: 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.*

2. ***Treasurer's Report*** – D. Rubinow presented the Treasurer's Report to Council. He reminded Council that our investments are with Olimpio Neu, Wells Fargo and Vanguard. He advised that the calculations on the Treasurer's Report are from March 31st as the College's fiscal year runs from April 1st to March 31st. He stated the S&P 500 has risen 22% from March to today. He reminded Council that the total assets include the building that ACNP owns which holds the Executive Office and Parthenon Management Group. D. Rubinow made note that the FY26 Budget that was approved in April is projected to run at a deficit of \$445K which is largely due to the rising costs of the annual meeting. He noted that we have never had to pull from our investments' dividends and interest to cover our special projects (use of funds); however, this may be necessary in the future. The annual meeting expense has doubled from 2021 and 2022 to the January 2026 Annual Meeting in the Bahamas and the projected expense of the January 2027 Annual Meeting in San Diego. The College is losing around \$1M from the annual meeting. Council should be thoughtful on expenses beyond the five-year operating expenses and

may want to develop a policy and budget around this for special projects. D. Rubinow noted that the College receives around \$700K from participating corporations; however, we have seen those amounts drop. S. Timm advised that ACNP put an offer on a new office building; however, they did not come to an agreement. S. Timm and D. Rubinow have budgeted funds to cover the purchase of a new office building in fixed income and cash with our investment accounts. S. Timm advised that they are working on getting our current building ready to be placed on the market this fall and if that sells, we may have to rent our current building until we find another building to purchase as there are not many options for new buildings in the Brentwood, TN market. Council thanked D. Rubinow for his leadership.

Strategic Goal: 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.*

3. ***Career Spanning Mentorship Award*** – B. Carlezon presented the details of the Career Spanning Mentorship Award for Council’s review. He stated the purpose of this award is to establish a mentor-mentee relationship that is sustained over five years and promote meeting attendance by Fellows of the College. The mentor and mentee would apply together, and the award will consist of \$2,100 which includes \$1,000 for both the mentor and mentee and \$100 to have a meal at the annual meeting. Only one award would be given each year for the next five years and would take nine years to cycle through all awards. After the fifth year, Council could evaluate the program and see if they would like to continue. The total spend for nine years is \$52,500. Concern was raised that applications may be from existing mentor/mentee relationships and may not capture new relationships. Another concern was that the Fellows who would apply for this will most likely be the Fellows that are already participating in the annual meeting. It was noted that it is not just the ACNP Annual Meeting where fewer senior members are attending, and it is across the field at other conferences such as SfN. It was questioned which committee would review the applications. B. Carlezon suggested the Education and Training Committee; however, discussed this program with the Near-Peer Mentoring Task Force that oversees the Near-Peer Mentorship program, and they were enthused with this initiative. He advised that we could work with that task force as an example to help establish the criteria and application requirements. N. Epperson advised that she spoke with the Education and Training Committee chairs earlier this week and agreed that they would also be in support of this type of program to help previous travel awardees stay engaged and apply for associate membership. B. Carlezon stated that if Council agrees to have the program, then we can work on how to implement for this year. It was suggested to include as one of the criteria for eligibility that the mentor and mentee be at different institutions, no papers published together and no grant collaborations to really help establish new relationships. It was also suggested for the mentor and mentee to explain in the application what they will do to keep the conversation and mentorship active outside the annual meetings. Another suggestion was to increase the funding amount to \$2,000 for each the mentee and mentor and maybe reduce the number of years to three instead of five. B. Carlezon noted the intention of five years was to help the

mentee through their first promotion. It was questioned if the chairs of the SLAC, Education and Training, and Near-Peer Mentoring Task Force could discuss the details and bring back to Council for further discussion. It was noted that there would not be enough time to finalize the program and start this year. There was a motion for a modified proposal to include additional funding to the mentor and mentee with a three-year commitment instead of five years as a trial year this year. The Executive Office will update the information and place this item on the next Executive Committee call and send to Council for a final vote.

4. ***Proposal from the Experience & Resilience Committee*** – Council reviewed the proposal from the Experience & Resilience Committee requesting to add an additional subcommittee focused on neurodivergence. The current subcommittees are the BIPOC Subcommittee, Hispanic/Latin American Subcommittee, and LGBTQIA2S+ Subcommittee. The subcommittees only meet three times a year and report to the Experience & Resilience Committee. The subcommittees had the opportunity to submit a proposal to Council for the Special Topics session but are not guaranteed a panel spot at the annual meeting. There are no informal gatherings sponsored by the College for the current subcommittees. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor to accept the additional subcommittee on neurodivergence; however, asking that this new subcommittee conform with the other current subcommittees in what is offered.

Strategic Goal: 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.*

5. ***December 2028 Annual Meeting Location*** – S. Timm reminded Council of the next three annual meeting locations.
 - January 2026 Annual Meeting – Atlantis Paradise Island Resort in the Bahamas
 - January 2027 Annual Meeting – San Deigo, California
 - January 2028 Annual Meeting – Atlantis Paradise Island Resort in the Bahamas

She also reminded Council that in April they agreed to move forward with Las Vegas for the next open year's annual meeting. The Executive Office completed a site visit with all three properties in Las Vegas which included the Cosmopolitan, Aria and Rio. The Vegas properties do not have availability in January 2029 so this meeting would have to rotate back to December 2028. S. Timm advised that the Rio which is located off the strip is not up to the standard that ACNP attendees are accustomed to. The College would be only meeting in house at the Cosmopolitan but not at the Aria as it has more meeting space. The Aria lacks foyer space in their meeting space that would be used for networking. S. Timm advised that attendees would not have to walk through the casino at the Cosmo as it is separated from the convention center and that the ACNP Meetings Manager, Kelly Phy, has negotiated with the Cosmopolitan to include the Chealsea Theater for \$6K per day instead of \$120K per day to use for the general session. The Executive Office is

recommending the Cosmopolitan for the meeting location. It was questioned if the Cosmopolitan has enough guest rooms to accommodate all attendees. S. Timm advised that they do; however, some attendees may choose to stay at another property that has a lower room rate. It was suggested to consider for future years going back to Florida as an option for convenience and financial benefits. S. Timm stated that the next open year will be on the East Coast and that it is hard to find affordable venues outside of Florida. She also noted that the College is tax exempt in Florida. It was suggested to consider starting conversations with the Experience and Resilience Committee and membership about returning to Florida. The Executive Office will schedule a call with B. Carlezon and D. Barch to consider ways to bring this to membership. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor of selecting the Cosmopolitan for the December 2028 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.

6. *Membership Additions – Bylaws Discussion Workgroup Proposal* – N. Epperson presented the workgroup's proposals to Council. The workgroup consisted of N. Epperson as chair, T. Bale, D. Barch, K. Ressler, R. Valentino, Cheryl Corcoran and Sanjay Mathew. The first recommendation is to require a deadline for Associate Members to register for the annual meeting to confirm their spot at the meeting. This deadline would fall closely after the poster abstract submission date. The next recommendation would require a bylaws change and would remove the annual meeting attendance requirement for Associate Members. Currently Associate Members cannot miss more than two annual meetings during their seven-year tenure as an Associate Member. If approved, this recommendation would need to be reviewed by the Constitution, Rules and Ethics Committee. N. Epperson noted that this change would not necessarily reduce the number of Associate Members attending the annual meeting as the thought is that most will still come since they would be interested in applying for full membership. Council suggested making that clear to the Associate Members that annual meeting attendance is reviewed by the Membership Committee when reviewing applications for full membership. The workgroup recommended that Associate Members not be allowed to invite anyone to the meeting from the invitation banks. Full members would be allowed to invite one invited guest (until the cap of 400 is met), one invitation from the General Invitation Bank (until the cap of 50 is met) and up to two invitations from the Special Invitation Bank (until the cap of 100 is met). The following eligibility would be required for the invited guest invitation:

- ***Invited Guests*** – All invited guests must be at least 21 years of age at the time of meeting attendance and meet one of the following criteria with respect to career stage:
 - At least a 2nd year post-doctoral fellow (both MDs and PhDs) - Would qualify for the trainee rate if in their 2nd year.
 - Faculty at an Instructor level (or similar) or above
 - If NIH intramural, considered to be equivalent to either category #1 or #2
 - If industry, demonstrate a level of leadership and/or responsibilityDocumentation of meeting one of these criteria is required at the time of requested invitation.

**This definition would not apply for non-member presenters on accepted panels, mini-panels, and study groups.*

It was suggested to include additional language in this definition for NIH extramural and other government agencies such as FDA. R. Valentino volunteered to help draft this language with the Executive Office. It was also noted that the College has an invitation bank for program officers as well. Trainees would be required to be in their second-year post-doctoral fellowship (both MDs and PhDs) only. The General Invitation Bank would be limited to 50 invitations instead of 100 and rather than being reserved for early-career scientists, anyone would qualify for this bank as long as they met the definition of invited guest. The Special Invitation Bank (previously named the Invitation Bank for Scientists from Disadvantaged Backgrounds) would have the same requirements but would be capped at 100 instead of having unlimited invitations. It was questioned how many invitations were extended from this bank in the past. The Executive Office advised that 154 invitations were extended in 2024, 107 invitations in 2023, and 114 invitations in 2022. It was suggested to modify this recommendation to be capped at 150 invitations instead of 100 invitations to be inclusive. The last proposal includes reducing the number of travel award invitation years to two instead of three. N. Epperson reminded Council that this is the first year the number of invitations were reduced to three from four years. N. Epperson advised that she shared this recommendation along with the new definition of invited guests with the chairs of the Education and Training Committee, Josh Roffman and Debra Bangasser, earlier this week. She advised that they were concerned how to keep the past travel awardees engaged with reducing to two years; however, agreed that a change was needed in the annual meeting. N. Epperson suggested scheduling a meeting with the chairs of the Education and Training Committee, Membership Committee, Career Development Committee, Near-Peer Mentorship Task Force, and Global Outreach Task Force to review all current programs and how these changes can strategically address our goals. N. Epperson volunteered to help with this discussion. All agreed that we need a good communication plan regarding the rationale for disallowing Associate Members to invite guests to the annual meeting and that our Associate Members on Council will be essential in helping us to craft that communication. There was a motion, second, and all of Council were in favor of accepting the workgroup's proposals with the addition of adding a clear statement to Associate Members that annual meeting attendance is reviewed by the Membership Committee when applying for full membership. Council also agreed to increase the Special Invitation Bank cap to 150 from 100. S. Timm stated that the Executive Office will work on a clear communications plan for these changes to present to Council in October. It was questioned if access to virtual attendance could still be available for early-career scientists and S. Timm advised that logistically that would be hard to manage administratively; however, we could discuss in October. Council thanked N. Epperson and the workgroup for their hard work.

7. ***Annual Meeting Registration Fee*** – S. Timm reviewed the proposal to increase registration fees over the next four years as annual meeting locations are becoming more expensive with food and beverage. The total cost of the 2024 Annual Meeting divided by the number of scientific registrants was \$1,007.71. This number was \$912.01 for the 2023 Annual Meeting. It was questioned if the Executive Office has ever received

complaints from membership on the registration fee and S. Timm advised they had not and that registration fees are in line with other meetings that PMG manages. It was questioned if the cost of the annual meeting is why senior members are no longer attending or if increasing the cost by \$25 or \$35 for the next four years will deter international attendees from attending the meeting. It was suggested to consider capping the invited guest registration fee to \$900 since their rate is more expensive. S. Timm noted that several of our invited guests that attend the meeting are trainees and received a reduced registration rate. It was suggested to share the reasons with membership on the reasons for the increase in registration fees at the Business Meeting. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor to increase the registration fee by \$35 each year for the next four years to help sustain the annual meeting. K. Ressler abstained from voting.

8. ***Special Topics Session*** – B. Carlezon provided an overview of the Special Topics submission proposals submitted by committees and task forces. As a reminder, this new session will take the place of the Meet the Expert session and will run concurrent to other scientific sessions. Council can either choose (one) session for two hours or (two) sessions for one hour each. Council reviewed the proposals in advance of this meeting and reviewed the scoring summary. B. Carlezon advised there was one clear winner from the Constitution, Rules and Ethics Committee along with the Animal Research Committee, *The Future of Animal Modeling in Psychiatric Neuroscience: An Interdisciplinary Analysis of the Role of Novel Alternative Methods (NAMs) and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Based Approaches*. The next two proposals were tied: Scientific Communications Committee along with the Liaison Committee, *Scientific Communication in the Era of Misinformation*, and the LGBTQIA2S+ Subcommittee, *Sex and Gender in Neuropsychopharmacology Research: Looking Forward*. B. Carlezon proposed providing the Constitution, Rules and Ethics Committee along with the Animal Research Committee a two-hour session slot and providing the Scientific Communications Committee along with the Liaison Committee and the LGBTQIA2S+ Subcommittee each a one-hour slot. S. Timm noted that there is additional bandwidth this year in the schedule to accept all proposals as the Program Committee did not fill every open slot in the program. Council agreed they did not want to set a precedent for future years by accepting all proposals and there were clear top scores based on the scoring summary. It was noted that the proposal by the Education and Training Committee, *Thinking Outside of the Box: Career Opportunities for Neuropsychopharmacologists*, was next in line and a very timely topic. It was suggested to also provide this topic a one-hour session slot. There was a motion, second, and all were in approval to provide the Constitution, Rules and Ethics Committee along with the Animal Research Committee a two-hour session slot with the next three highest scoring proposals a one-hour session slot.
9. ***Global Outreach Task Force Proposal*** – As a reminder, the Global Outreach Task Force established the Global Outreach Scholarship program for the Annual Meeting. This opportunity is available to early career scientists who are currently working in countries *outside of the United States*. An early career scientist is defined as an individual who is at or below Assistant Professor (or equivalent level if in a non-academic institution) and in a research-intensive training position, i.e.: non-clinician Ph.D. students, medical residents

or fellows, Pharm.D. residents, interns, and post-doctoral fellows. The scholarship benefits include waived virtual annual meeting registration for the awardee. The top three applicants receive waived in-person annual meeting registration, up to five nights lodging at the designated ACNP hotel, round trip economy airfare to the annual meeting for the awardee, up to \$100 ground transportation, and up to \$50/day for meals for up to six days. The task force is requesting to increase this number to the top five applicants. The next applications (up to 50) receive an invitation to attend the annual meeting virtually. S. Timm noted that this would be around an additional \$6K more to include two more in-person scholarships. It was also noted the task force will need to consider changing the eligibility requirements next year to be in line with the other changes of invited guests for the annual meeting. Council questioned why the task force wanted to increase the awards from three to five in-person scholarships. D. Ongur, Council Liaison, noted that the task force agreed this was a good way to expand ACNP's global presence. There was a motion to increase this to four in-person scholarships instead of five. There was a second and all were in favor.

10. Experience & Resilience Committee Symposium – The Experience and Resilience Committee has requested to read a statement regarding the name change of the committee prior to the start of the symposium at the January 2026 Annual Meeting. Council agreed this statement was well written and thanked the committee for their thoughtfulness. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor.

11. Career Development Committee Proposals – D. Barch presented the Career Development Committee's proposals as Council Liaison.

a. Early-Stage Investigator (ESI) Assistance Program – The Career Development Committee is requesting to continue the Early-Stage Investigator (ESI) Assistance Program for the January 2026 Annual Meeting. The Early-Stage Investigator (ESI) Assistance Program was a new initiative in 2024 to support ESIs in attending the ACNP Annual Meeting. This program funding is needs-based, rather than merit-based. Eligible expenses include a five-night hotel stay, dependent care (i.e., childcare or eldercare), economy airfare, and ground transportation totaling up to \$2,500. There were ten awardees in 2024 (\$25,000). This opportunity is available to both members and non-members who are eligible and have already received an in-person invitation to the meeting or be registered to attend the meeting in-person. If the person is being awarded any other type of funding, such as Travel Award, past Travel Award additional funding, travel stipend as a non-member presenter, or funding from any other ACNP initiative, then they are not eligible to apply. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor of continuing the ESI Assistance Program for the January 2026 Annual Meeting.

b. Ask Me Anything Sessions – The Career Development Committee is requesting to continue the Ask Me Anything sessions at the January 2026 Annual Meeting. Both sessions will have the topic of *Navigating Uncertainty* and will be scheduled prior to morning sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday of the annual meeting. Session panelists have not yet been decided. As a reminder, these sessions are for no more than 30 early-career attendees with advanced registration required. In 2024, the sessions were

advertised to travel awardees, past travel awardees and mentees in the Near-Peer Mentorship program. In 2024, 30 attendees registered to attend the Membership 101 session and 17 attendees attended on-site. 27 attendees registered to attend the Reviewing for NPP and DPN session and 12 attendees attended on-site. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor for the Career Development Committee to plan the Ask Me Anything sessions at the annual meeting. It was recommended that communication be clear that attendees who RSVP should make every effort to attend on-site as their RSVP is taking away a spot from another attendee. It was also suggested to consider increasing the cap from 30 to allow more attendees to attend since things come up on-site and some do not show up to the meeting. It was also suggested to send a reminder on-site to the attendees that RSVP.

Strategic Goal: 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.*

B. Carlezon suggested inviting the Website Editor, Todd Lencz, to present at next year's summer meeting.

12. NPP Digital Psychiatry – B. Carlezon provided an update to Council on *NPP-Digital Psychiatry and Neuroscience*. He stated the current fee for publishing is \$2,090; however, that DPN has waivers to use to attract content. DPN launched two years ago on August 15, 2023. The journal is currently working on getting indexed in PubMed Central as the journal reached 25 papers published. The application was submitted in March, but they are still awaiting notification on acceptance. When DPN reached 30 papers, they became eligible to apply to be indexed in Web of Science. DPN is currently preparing the application with the publisher for this and had to make some minor changes after an internal review such as disclosing editors' papers in the submission process. DPN has developed Primers which are two-page articles that create alignment between neuroscience and clinical topics. DPN is working on pre-registered reports which is a first for NPP and DPN. This required a lot of infrastructure to be in place including a place on the website where the accepted stage one paper goes while it is awaiting stage two, which is the full study or full meta-analysis. DPN is moving away from posting on X and has tried to post on BlueSky, but this platform is still relatively small. DPN recently created an account on Reddit which has been productive so far. They have highlighted some recent articles on Reddit which increased visibility of these papers. DPN has started an AI generated podcast through Notebook LM and B. Carlezon shared a clip from one of the recent podcasts. He advised that Sofiya Hupalo and the DPN Intern, Britton Barbee, worked on this. Council agreed that DPN has made tremendous progress and thanked B. Carlezon for his hard work.

13. NPP Impact Factor and Update – S. Timm advised that *Neuropsychopharmacology's* Impact Factor raised from 6.6 to 7.1 this year. She also advised that the Springer Nature contract will end on December 31, 2026 and the Executive Office is working with the Editors and two consultants that offered bids to navigate next steps with either staying with Springer Nature and improving the services with the next contract or going out to bid. S. Timm will provide an update to Council in October. S. Timm noted that the NPP

Development Day was this week and had a productive meeting in-person. NPP is receiving close to the number of 2020 submissions which were a record year. The impact factor and the journal's rankings continue to rise. Lisa Monteggia and Tony George are doing an excellent job with the journal. The editors are staying in tune with the recent government regulations on submitting article fees with grant funding. S. Timm shared a [link](#) to an NIH Request for Information regarding how to maximize research funds by limiting allowable publishing costs. She encouraged Council members to respond with their comments and concerns. S. Timm noted that DPN also uses Springer Nature as their publisher and their contract ends on December 31, 2027 and one of the considerations is extending NPP's contract to be on the same schedule as DPN. It was suggested to discuss what it is like to work with Elsevier as a publishing company with Trey Sunderland and John Krystal.

14. Scientific Communications Committee Proposal – Kat Coffen, PMG, provided an overview of the memo and outline from the Scientific Communications Committee on audiences and strategies for communication. She advised the matrix identifies three distinct audience segments and outlines a strategic framework with tailored objectives and deliverables. The strategy balances current established programs such as the BRAD Fellowship, Near-Peer Mentorship Program, participating on Hill Days, Oral History videos on the ACNP Website, and the member newsletter, with new initiatives designed to expand the organization's reach and impact. The three primary target audiences are the following:

- **Scientific Community** - Healthcare providers, clinical and basic researchers, and early career professionals who form the core professional network requiring ongoing support and development opportunities.
- **Grassroots Communities** - Individuals affected by mental health issues, science enthusiasts, and the public who need accessible, evidence-based information to combat misinformation.
- **Grasstops Communities** - Elected officials, policymakers, and community thought leaders who influence funding decisions and policy directions affecting neuroscience research.

The new strategic initiatives include the following:

- **Digital Engagement** - A multi-platform approach including social media campaigns and a dedicated YouTube channel targeting next-generation audiences.
- **Mentorship Infrastructure** - Enhanced communication tools for mentor-mentee relationships beyond annual meetings, recognizing the need for sustained professional development support.
- **Publishing Support** - Expanded opportunities for early career professionals through NPP and DPN initiatives, aimed at reducing publication costs and barriers.
- **Policy Engagement** - Two significant new initiatives including a dedicated Science Policy Fellowship for member training and a public-facing "Science for Policy" website section to bridge research and policy communities.

K. Coffen highlighted that the established programs are currently budgeted around \$90K and the new initiatives would require substantial additional funding, totaling between \$70K and \$130K. The substantial investment in digital communication indicates recognition that effective science communication requires diverse, modern platforms to reach different audience segments effectively. The emphasis on "sharing real-world stories" and "bridging the gap between complex scientific data and practical, accessible insights" highlights a strategic shift toward narrative-driven communication that makes neuropsychopharmacology research more relatable to broader audiences, while the focus on policy engagement reflects growing awareness that scientific organizations must actively participate in policy discussions affecting their field. The next step would be to create an operational plan and budget with a detailed two-phase calendared execution plan spanning September 2025 through March 2026. Council thanked K. Coffen for the excellent presentation and memo and suggested collaborating with other organizations who might already be working on some of these initiatives instead of reinventing the wheel. It was also noted that ACNP will not have as much impact on our own and would have more impact collaborating with other organizations. One suggestion included working with [One Mind](#), [BBRF](#), and the [Society for Women's Health Research](#) (SWHR). There was a motion, second, and all were in favor with proceeding with next steps to create an operational plan and budget.

S. Timm advised that Research!America is requesting the College join their Cures Not Cuts campaign by putting science at the forefront specifically to voters educating on the importance of science and groundbreaking discoveries from NIH funding. They are primarily targeting Republican Senators and Congressmen in four states. S. Timm advised that the Executive Office is also speaking with members of another initiative, United for Cures, with AAMC and Us Against Alzheimer's. S. Timm noted that the College would have to donate \$35K to the Cures Not Cuts campaign to have an impact with this initiative. Concern was raised that some people are not listening and not sure if any organization is going to have a huge impact with changing those voters' perceptions on the importance of medical research. S. Timm advised that the Cures Not Cuts campaign would be part of the Scientific Communications Committees communication strategy. There was a motion to accept the request to donate \$35K and join the Cures Not Cuts campaign, second, and all were in favor.

Strategic Goal: 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.*

- 15. 3:35 p.m. - Precompetitive Stakeholders Subcommittee** – K. Ressler provided an update on the Precompetitive Stakeholders Subcommittee that is reporting to the Liaison Committee and potential additional staffing. This is an ongoing experiment led by K. Ressler and Sahib Khalsa to see if there can be a task force within ACNP to bring together academia, industry, governmental affairs, and FDA with the idea that all acknowledge the decline in translation. The idea is that ACNP can be a convenor to bring the parties together. The task force has had a few meetings over the spring and summer.

The task force members include Linda Brady, Danielle Graham, N. Epperson, Bernie Fischer, Marion Leboyer, Martien Kas, Valentina Mantua, Rouba Kozak, Chris Chatham, Christoph von der Goltz, Steve Hoffman, Holly Lisanby, Bill Potter, Wayne Drevets, Amit Etkin, Hussein Manji, and Hartmuth Kolb. The task force is discussing what are the right biomarkers, predictive surrogates, multimodal, regulatory components, feasibility constraints, etc. The task force's first goal is to develop a white paper on precision medicine. If the white paper comes to fruition, the group would like to submit to DPN or NPP. There has also been a conversation with D. Barch, B. Carlezon and the Executive Office about employing a Project Manager through PMG that could really help keep the conversation going with action items and asynchronous meetings. K. Ressler will present another update at the Council Meetings during the January 2026 Annual Meeting. The next task force meeting will be scheduled in mid-late September. Council thanked K. Ressler and the task force for their hard work.

Operational/Governance Items

No agenda items.

Information Items:

- 16. Committee & Task Force Reports** – B. Carlezon encouraged Council to review the committee updates.
- 17. NNCI May Update** – Council was provided the National Neuroscience Curriculum Initiative (NNCI) May update.
- 18. 2025 Advocacy Efforts** – B. Carlezon noted that one of the presidential goals for this year was to advocate for the NIH and these [advocacy efforts](#) on the ACNP Website showcase all the College has done this year.
- 19. ACNP January 2026 Annual Meeting** – As of August 6th, 1,052 attendees have registered for the annual meeting. There have been 64 attendees invited from the Special Invitation Bank (previously named the Invitation Bank for Scientists from Disadvantaged Backgrounds) and 100 attendees invited from the Early Career Researcher Invitation Bank (previously named General Invitation Bank). The member invited guest invitations are currently at 290 with a 400-invitation cap.
- 20. APA Research Colloquium Participants** – As a reminder, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) holds a booster session at the ACNP Annual Meeting, and their colloquium participants receive an invitation to the ACNP Annual Meeting at a reduced registration rate. There have been 8 (2%) Colloquium participants that have become ACNP members and 34 (10%) Colloquium participants that have received an ACNP Travel Award since 2017.
- 21. African College of Neuropsychopharmacology School (AfCNP)** – Council was provided the report from the AfCNP Neuropsychopharmacology School in Africa in June.

22. *Charity: Water Update* – Council was provided the report that shows the progress the College’s funds are making with their local partner, Relief Society of Tigray. So far, they've engaged 88 communities in hygiene and sanitation training, created eight menstrual hygiene management clubs for girls in schools, and more. Charity:Water is on track for an estimated completion date of spring 2026 where they will share the final report with GPS coordinates and photos from the community.

23. *Technology in Psychiatry (TIPS) Conference* – The TIPS Meeting will be held virtually this year instead of being held as a satellite meeting prior to the January 2026 ACNP Annual Meeting. The foremost factor was that the changes at NIH together with the non-US venue could adversely affect registration. McLean is grateful for all the support and encouragement that ACNP provided to the TIPS team.

The meeting concluded at 3:42pm Eastern.