

ACNP Committee Updates for 2025 – End of Year

**Internal/ACNP Use Only*

Animal Research Committee

CHARGE: Nominate a committee member to fulfill the role of Ex Officio to the Constitution, Rules, and Ethics Committee.

UPDATE: Zoe Donaldson volunteered to serve as Ex Officio to the Constitution, Rules, and Ethics Committee.

CHARGE: Support and collaborate with organizations such as American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AAALAC), National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR), Foundation for Biomedical Research (FBR), Americans for Medical Progress (AMP), and other animal research committees in other societies (SfN, SOBP, etc.).

UPDATE: APA has taken the lead in creating a listserv to provide a centralized database of shareable resources for communicating animal research. The College is part of a PEER (People for Effective and Ethical Research) coalition led by AMP to advocate for ethical 21st – century biomedical research. The group created a logo and flyers for the PEER Hill Day event which was held on October 14th to advocate for responsible science, connect with fellow advocates, and champion ethical, evidence-based research policies involving animals. On October 14, 2025, PEER representatives met with 20 congressional offices across eight states, addressing the complexities and common misconceptions surrounding animal research. Representatives emphasized that animal studies remain essential for understanding complex biology and scientific progress depends on maintaining access to the full range of research tools.

CHARGE: Facilitate the ACNP/AMP Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD) Fellow program for 2025 and report on its success.

UPDATE: BRAD hosted a table at the 2024 ACNP Annual Meeting. They shared knowledge and provided resource materials including new materials on psychedelics and the substance use field. They had many interactive conversations which provided the opportunity for collaboration. The table was well attended throughout the meeting. BRAD Day was celebrated on April 17th. Nakul Aggarwal, BRAD Fellow, worked with a middle school in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin for BRAD Day. There was also a session at the University of Wisconsin which included attendees from Canada, Brazil and the U.S. The focus was on patient awareness. N. Aggarwal is working to integrate information on this topic along with patient stories related to animal research for the BRAD and University of Wisconsin websites to integrate the information into 2026 resource materials. N. Aggarwal is also working on a draft commentary for psychiatry journals on the use of animal research in advancing medicine. The BRAD Fellow for 2025-2026 is Rachel Puralewski, Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin.

CHARGE: Be available to provide expert consultation to members of Congress, when their senior staff and other relevant policymakers on the national or state level reach out to the College to help them better understand the complex issues surrounding areas of neuroscience research.

UPDATE: No updates to report. The Animal Research Committee assisted in drafting the College's statements on the SPARE Act and the NIH Statement regarding the timeline and scope of animal testing reductions.

CHARGE: Review the animal research pages on the ACNP Website and update with any new information including to review the animal care papers that are listed.

UPDATE: No updates to report.

Audit/Finance Committee

UPDATE: The FY25 Audit was reviewed by the committee in October.

Career Development Committee

CHARGE: Develop articles for the quarterly Bulletins and ACNP social media accounts on topics related to Career Development.

UPDATE: Ryan Herringa provided an overview for the 64th Annual Meeting Career Development session entitled, *Degrees of Uncertainty: Surviving Science* in the May Bulletin. Noah Philip provided an overview of the 2024 Annual Meeting Early-Stage Investigator (ESI) Assistance Program for the August Bulletin.

CHARGE: Nominate a committee member to fulfill the role of Ex Officio to the Experience & Resilience Committee.

UPDATE: Noah Philip volunteered to fulfill the role on the Education and Training Committee, Sandra Sanchez-Roige volunteered to fulfill the role on the Empowerment Committee and Albert Arias agreed to fulfill the role on the Experience and Resilience Committee.

CHARGE: Review the session feedback and develop a Career Development session for the Annual Meeting.

UPDATE: The committee will host a Career Development Session related to navigating uncertainty for the January 2026 Annual Meeting. As federal support for science faces increasing uncertainty, this session will highlight practical strategies and alternative pathways to help researchers move forward with confidence. Bringing together perspectives from industry, academia, and charitable foundations such as the Simons Foundation and the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation (BBRF), this session will feature experienced leaders who will share insights, resources, and real-world examples. Speakers will validate the concerns many scientists feel while offering constructive guidance on how to adapt, seek new opportunities, and explore alternate funding pathways beyond traditional federal funding sources. Panelists will include representatives from Janssen Pharmaceuticals, the Brain & Behavior Foundation, the Simons Foundation, and Stanford University.

CHARGE: Continue to work with the Empowerment Committee and the Education and Training Committee to discuss overlap of the groups and how to avoid duplicative efforts during the annual meeting.

UPDATE: The volunteers of ex officio on the Education and Training, Empowerment, and Experience & Resilience Committees have advised the theme for this year's Career Development Session to make sure there is no overlap with other committee symposium sessions.

CHARGE: Discuss the Early-Stage Investigator (ESI) Assistance Program from 2024 and complete a report back to Council on findings and a request to continue for the next annual meeting if desired by the committee.

UPDATE: The committee agreed to continue with the Early-Stage Investigator (ESI) Assistance program for the 2026 Annual Meeting after reviewing the survey results and feedback from the 2024 applicants and awardees. A proposal was submitted to Council for review during their August meeting and the proposal was accepted. Applications opened on October 9th and the deadline to submit was October 30th. This year, the College received 105 applications this year, representing a 28% increase from the 82 applications received in 2024.

CHARGE: Review the inaugural ‘Ask Me Anything’ sessions from the 2024 Annual Meeting and determine if they should continue with a request to Council.

UPDATE: The committee agreed to the topic of *Navigating Uncertainty* for both the Tuesday and Wednesday sessions. A brief write-up on the sessions was submitted to Council for approval during their August Meeting and approved.

Constitution, Rules, & Ethics Committee

CHARGE: Address any possible changes to constitution or bylaws presented to the committee.

UPDATE: The ACNP Task Force on Membership agreed to remove the attendance requirement for Associate Members only. Council approved this recommendation which will require a vote to membership for a bylaws change. From: 1.) Associate members may not miss more than two Annual Meetings during their seven-year tenure as an Associate Members unless excused by Council. To: 2.) **PROPOSED VERBIAGE:** Associate Members do not have an Annual Meeting attendance requirement during their seven-year tenure as an Associate Member. The committee unanimously confirmed their approval for the bylaws change and vote to membership.

CHARGE: Deal with any ethics issues that may be brought before the committee.

UPDATE: No updates to report.

Education and Training Committee

CHARGE: Implement changes for the 2026 Travel Award program, proposed by the Education and Training Committee chairs and approved by Council.

UPDATE: The committee reduced the travel award levels to two levels, Junior and Senior for the 2025 application period.

CHARGE: Review applications and select the 2025 recipients for Travel Awards, Past Travel Awardee Funding recipients, ACNP/ALBA Travel Awardee, NIDA Travel Awardees, and annual Harry June and Athina Markou Memorial Travel Award(s).

UPDATE: 60 Travel Awardees have been selected out of 393 applications. 42 Past Travel Awardee Additional Funding recipients have been selected to receive travel funding for the January 2026 Annual Meeting. The Athina Markou Travel Award winners are Isaac Kauvar, Ph.D. and Elizabeth Sneddon-Yepez, Ph.D. The ACNP/NIDA Travel Award winners are Alexander Herman, M.D., Ph.D. and Nicole Short, Ph.D. The Harry June Award was not funded by the NIAAA for 2025 and ACNP is not offering the ACNP/ALBA award in 2025.

CHARGE: After three years of attending the ACNP Annual Meeting, encourage past Travel Awardees (PTA) to discuss membership to the College with a Membership Mentor and offer membership joining information.

UPDATE: Membership information was sent in September 2025.

CHARGE: Work with committee members’ affiliations, the Experience & Resilience Committee, and the Inclusive Excellence Officer on outreach efforts to increase the number of historically excluded group applicants for Travel Awards.

UPDATE: The Travel Award flyer was distributed to the following:

- ACNP Experience and Resilience Committee (formerly the Diversity and Inclusion Committee), Gender Equity & Inclusion Committee, and the Global Outreach Task Force
- 2021-2025 ACNP Near-Peer Mentees
- World Women in Neuroscience
- NINDS: (Diversity News to Use Listserv) overseen by the Office of Programs to Enhance Neuroscience Workforce Diversity c/o Lauren Ulrich, Ph.D., Scientific Program Officer

- NIMH Intramural Research Program Listserv, NIMH Office of Fellowship Training LinkedIn Feed, and NIH Training Director’s Committee to share at other Intramural Colleges c/o Janet Clark, Ph.D., Director for Fellowship Training, Office of Fellowship Training
- NIDA Office of Research Training, Diversity, & Disparities Listserv c/o Aria Crump, Deputy Director, Office of Diversity and Health Disparities, Deputy Director, Office of Research Training, Diversity and Disparities
- NIH Marine Biological Laboratory Spines Listserv c/o Linda Hyman, PI
- World Women in Neuroscience Program c/o Emmeline Edwards, Ph.D., Chair
- Black in Neuro Newsletter
- ASCP – American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology
- SOBP – Society of Biological Psychiatry
- APA – American Psychiatric Association
- ADAA – Anxiety & Depression Association of America

CHARGE: Review the results from the 2024 TA Survey and make improvements to the program based on feedback. Ensure feedback is 80% or higher satisfaction with the program.

UPDATE: The 2024 Travel Awardee survey resulted in a 96% satisfaction rate. The committee reviewed the feedback and while it was positive, they are making slight adjustments to the roundtable breakfast and luncheon this year due to comments from awardees and mentor experiences.

CHARGE: Coordinate the 2025 Travel Award program during the Annual Meeting, which includes:

- Select speaker(s) for the Travel Awardee Symposium at the Annual Meeting.
- Coordinate the roundtable breakfast.

UPDATE: The Travel Award Luncheon/Symposium is scheduled for Thursday, January 15th from 11:00am to 1:00pm. The title of the session is “Strategies to Meet the Moment: Maximizing Research in Times of Uncertainty”. The panelists are Amanda Kentner, Susanne Ahmari, Brian Trainor, and Mark Pollack. The Travel Award Reception is scheduled for Sunday, January 11th from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. The Travel Award Roundtable Breakfast is scheduled for Monday, January 12th from 7:00am to 8:00am. The Travel Awardee Mix and Mingle Breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14th from 8:00am to 9:00am.

CHARGE: Work with the Liaison Committee on funding a select number of past travel awardees from the 2024 class to participate in the SfN Hill Day in 2025.

UPDATE: The committee selected the following 2024 Travel Awardees, and they provided their feedback from their experience at SfN Hill Day for the [May Bulletin](#).

- Rodolfo Flores Garcia, Ph.D., *The University of Texas at El Paso*
- Lana Grasser, Ph.D., *Wayne State University*
- Serena Gumusoglu, Ph.D., M.Sc., *University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine*
- Karthik Sarma, M.D., Ph.D., *UCSF Dept. of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences*

Empowerment Committee

CHARGE: Review the feedback from the Symposium, sponsored by the Empowerment Committee survey and develop the program for the 2026 luncheon.

UPDATE: The committee will host a symposium entitled *Personalized Resilience and Collective Empowerment*. This symposium will emphasize collaboration, support, and sustainability in the

scientific community. This session will focus on empowering each other and the next generation of scientists acknowledging how we feel but how we can lift each other up in our science and how it is a powerful message when everyone comes together. The panelists will discuss their uphill career path to bring a historical perspective on their career development. The panelists will also share different responses and adaptations to stress. The session may also identify different paths of response or different adaptations to stress and connecting or finding strength in the collective. Negar Fani, committee chair, will serve as the moderator. The panelists include, Vaishali Bakshi, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Anissa Abi-Dargham, M.D., SUNY, Tamar Gur, M.D., Ph.D., Ohio State University College of Medicine and Sarah Temkin, M.D., American Cancer Society. The committee will also host post-symposium roundtable organic discussions. Topics for the post-symposium roundtable discussions will be available to assist leaders who may wish to use them as prompts. The topics include Approaches you've identified to stay positive and focused, Ways to stay engaged and Hopeful – maintain your joy. A call for table leader volunteers was sent to membership in early November.

CHARGE: Discuss if the Empowerment Committee would like to host the Empowerment Committee Networking Breakfast and Networking Tables again during the 2026 Annual Meeting.

UPDATE: The committee agreed to host the Empowerment Committee Networking Breakfast and Networking tables during the 2026 Annual Meeting. This year's topics include Leadership Challenges, Building Networks and Collaborations, Negotiation, Protecting One's Priorities, Allyship and Advocacy, Team building, Harmony; Work-Life Balance (Work Life Harmony), Grant Writing and Funding, ACNP Membership, and Building and Restructuring.

CHARGE: Nominate a committee member to fulfill the role of Ex Officio to the Experience & Resilience Committee.

UPDATE: Tory Eisenlohr-Moul volunteered to serve as Ex Officio to the Experience and Resilience Committee.

CHARGE: Identify and implement effective methods to increase the number of qualified women and non-binary individuals applying for full membership. This should include encouraging senior women and non-binary individuals to attend the meeting and otherwise participate in ACNP-related activities (e.g., reviewing for NPP) prior to applying.

UPDATE: The chairs sent an outreach letter to women and non-binary individuals on accepted panels, mini-panels, and study groups who have attended at least one annual meeting and has not received a letter from the chairs in the past to encourage their application for membership.

CHARGE: Identify and nominate qualified women and non-binary individuals for the ACNP Honorary Awards.

UPDATE: Award nominations were submitted for Cynthia Rogers (Advocacy Award), Sophia Vinogradov (Axelrod Award), and Sandra Sanchez-Roige (Efron Award).

CHARGE: Present a poster at the 2026 Annual Meeting showcasing the women and non-binary stats in the College in 2025 and prior.

UPDATE: Christie Fowler volunteered to create a poster showcasing the women and non-binary stats in the College in 2025 and prior. Committee volunteers were requested to present the poster during the 2026 Annual Meeting. Negar Fani and Sade Spencer volunteered to present the poster during the annual meeting. Other committee volunteers are still being identified.

Experience & Resilience Committee

CHARGE: Evaluate the success of the 2024 Annual Meeting committee events and make a recommendation on what future events should be held to foster belonging and inclusion. The committee should recommend which events should be held during the 2026 Annual Meeting.

- o Annual meeting networking event for women which focuses on the unique challenges and opportunities in navigating a career in academic medicine
- o Experience & Resilience Symposium
- o Experience & Resilience Social/Reception

UPDATE: The committee agreed to host a networking breakfast that focuses on challenges and opportunities in navigating a career in academic medicine that is open to all attendees. The committee agreed to a symposium on the topic of a *Resilience Toolkit to Overcome Adversity*. The symposium will have two major topics: lived experiences (and making this intersectional by having a variety of groups represented) and ways of promoting resilience. The panelists include, Victoria Arango, Ph.D., NIMH, David Jentsch, Ph.D., Binghamton University, Sidney Hankerson, M.D., MBA, Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai and Dionna Williams, Ph.D., Emory University. The committee will also host a social reception at the meeting.

CHARGE: Work with the committees' affiliations on outreach efforts to increase the number of historically excluded individuals' applications for Travel Awards and membership to the College.

UPDATE: The Travel Award Program flyer was distributed to the following:

- ACNP Experience and Resilience Committee (formerly the Diversity and Inclusion Committee), Gender Equity & Inclusion Committee, and the Global Outreach Task Force
- 2021-2025 ACNP Near-Peer Mentees
- World Women in Neuroscience
- NINDS: (Diversity News to Use Listserv) overseen by the Office of Programs to Enhance Neuroscience Workforce Diversity c/o Lauren Ulrich, Ph.D., Scientific Program Officer
- NIMH Intramural Research Program Listserv, NIMH Office of Fellowship Training LinkedIn Feed, and NIH Training Director's Committee to share at other Intramural Colleges c/o Janet Clark, Ph.D., Director for Fellowship Training, Office of Fellowship Training
- NIDA Office of Research Training, Diversity, & Disparities Listserv c/o Aria Crump, Deputy Director, Office of Diversity and Health Disparities, Deputy Director, Office of Research Training, Diversity and Disparities
- NIH Marine Biological Laboratory Spines Listserv c/o Linda Hyman, PI
- World Women in Neuroscience Program c/o Emmeline Edwards, Ph.D., Chair
- Black in Neuro Newsletter
- ASCP – American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology
- SOBP – Society of Biological Psychiatry
- APA – American Psychiatric Association
- ADAA – Anxiety & Depression Association of America

CHARGE: Encourage committee members to nominate qualified individuals from historically excluded groups for the ACNP Honorific Awards.

UPDATE: The committee submitted three nominations for the Dolores Shockley Advancement Award and one of the nominations was accepted.

CHARGE: Present a poster at the 2026 Annual Meeting showcasing the College's advancements in creating an inclusive environment.

UPDATE: Volunteers have been identified to work on the poster. Some volunteers have been identified to present the poster. Additional volunteers needed will be identified in the late fall.

CHARGE: Assign a chair to the BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, and Hispanic / Latin American Sub-Committees and request volunteers from the committee. The chair must be an ACNP member and will report back to the chairs of the Experience and Resilience Committee.

UPDATE: Cynthia Crawford agreed to serve as the chair of the BIPOC Sub-Committee. Kale Edmiston agreed to serve as the chair of the LGBTQIA2S+ Sub-Committee. Benjamin Suarez agreed to serve as the chair of the Hispanic/Latin American Sub-Committee.

BIPOC Subcommittee (Under E&R Committee)

CHARGE: Work with the committees' affiliations on outreach efforts to increase the number of historically excluded individuals' applications for Travel Awards and membership to the College.

UPDATE: The Travel Award Program flyer was distributed to the following mentioned above and the sub-committee members were asked if they had any contacts at HBCU's to provide membership information.

CHARGE: Encourage committee members to nominate qualified individuals from historically excluded groups for the ACNP Honorific Awards.

UPDATE: The sub-committee was provided with a spreadsheet identifying BIPOC ACNP members and highlighting whether they were previous award recipients. The sub-committee members were encouraged to nominate qualified individuals for the ACNP Honorific Awards. A nomination on behalf of the sub-committee was submitted and accepted.

CHARGE: Gather applicable information for the Career/Diversity Resources page of the ACNP website. This includes identifying any members from historically excluded groups in the news to place on the ACNP website and to spotlight on the ACNP social media accounts.

UPDATE: No updates to report.

CHARGE: Identify any members from historically excluded groups in the news to place on the ACNP website and to spotlight on the ACNP social media accounts.

UPDATE: Cynthia Rogers will be highlighted on the ACNP website and social media accounts for receiving the Joel Elkes Research Award for the 2026 Annual Meeting (confidential).

Hispanic/Latin American Subcommittee (Under E&R Committee)

CHARGE: Work with the committees' affiliations on outreach efforts to increase the number of historically excluded individuals' applications for Travel Awards and membership to the College.

UPDATE: The Travel Award Program flyer was distributed to the following mentioned above and the sub-committee members were asked if they had any contacts at HBCU's to provide membership information.

CHARGE: Encourage committee members to nominate qualified individuals from historically excluded groups for the ACNP Honorific Awards.

UPDATE: The sub-committee chair encouraged the sub-committee to consider nominating eligible candidates. No nominations were submitted.

CHARGE: Gather applicable information for the Career/Diversity Resources page of the ACNP website. This includes identifying any members from historically excluded groups in the news to place on the ACNP website and to spotlight on the ACNP social media accounts.

UPDATE: Members of the subcommittee gathered additional Career/Diversity Resources which have been placed on the Career/Diversity and Inclusion Resources page of the website.

CHARGE: Identify any members from historically excluded groups in the news to place on the ACNP website and to spotlight on the ACNP social media accounts.

UPDATE: Millie Rincón-Cortés was highlighted in September 2025 for her growth in the College over the past decade along with her contribution to committees and leadership roles.

LGBTQIA2S+ Subcommittee (Under E&R Committee)

CHARGE: Work with the committees' affiliations on outreach efforts to increase the number of historically excluded individuals' applications for Travel Awards and membership to the College.

UPDATE: The Travel Award Program flyer was distributed to the following mentioned above and the sub-committee members were asked if they had any contacts at HBCU's to provide membership information.

CHARGE: Encourage committee members to nominate qualified individuals from historically excluded groups for the ACNP Honorific Awards.

UPDATE: The chair submitted a nomination for the Dolores Shockley Advancement Award and the nomination was accepted.

CHARGE: Gather applicable information for the Career/Diversity Resources page of the ACNP website. This includes identifying any members from historically excluded groups in the news to place on the ACNP website and to spotlight on the ACNP social media accounts.

UPDATE: No updates to report.

CHARGE: Identify any members from historically excluded groups in the news to place on the ACNP website and to spotlight on the ACNP social media accounts.

UPDATE: No updates to report.

Honorific Awards Committee

CHARGE: Consider ways to increase the number of nominations for awards, especially from women and historically excluded groups.

UPDATE: No updates to report.

CHARGE: Work with the Executive Office on potential changes to award presentations at the annual meeting.

UPDATE: The Executive Office proposed to present each award on stage with one slide instead of having individual slides for each awardee. The award winner will collect their plaque on stage during the President's Plenary and take a photo with the President during the President's Reception. The award winners will be recognized in the walk-in slides as well as a printed banner near registration. The award winners will also be invited to the President's Reception on Sunday evening. These proposals were approved by the committee. The awardees were announced virtually the weeks prior to the annual meeting.

Liaison Committee

CHARGE: Working with the Education and Training Committee, select 2-5 past travel awardees from the 2024 class to participate in the SfN Hill Day.

UPDATE: The Education and Training Committee chairs and Liaison Committee chairs selected the following 2024 Travel Awardees, and they provided their feedback from their experience at SfN Hill Day for the [May Bulletin](#).

- • Rodolfo Flores Garcia, Ph.D., *The University of Texas at El Paso*
- • Lana Grasser, Ph.D., *Wayne State University*
- • Serena Gumusoglu, Ph.D., M.Sc., *University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine*
- • Karthik Sarma, M.D., Ph.D., *UCSF Dept. of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences*

CHARGE: Continue advocacy efforts on the Hill. This could be by strategic visits to the Hill, visits with other organizations like American Brain Coalition (ABC) and SfN, and by conducting Congressional Neuroscience Caucus briefings. This could also include a webinar for updates from pharma/biotech, FDA, and patient advocacy groups.

UPDATE: The past travel awardees selected attended SfN's Hill Day in March. On May 7, Drs. Nixon, Marusak, Love, and Dwyer joined the American Brain Coalition (ABC) in Washington, D.C., to advocate for continued federal investment in neuroscience research. In morning meetings with lawmakers, they urged Congress to restore funding to \$680 million for FY 2026 for the BRAIN Initiative and authorize a new long-term investment to build on the Initiative's successes. In the afternoon, they attended ABC's congressional briefing, *Advancing Neuroscience for Americans: Breakthroughs in Addiction Research Enabled by the NIH BRAIN Initiative*, at the Congressional Visitors Center. The session showcased how BRAIN-funded research is driving progress in understanding and treating addiction and other brain disorders. The committee is currently working with the ABC on suggesting speakers for the *Psychedelics in Brain Health: From Promise to Practice* for a December panel and the *Mental Health and Stigma* Congressional Neuroscience Caucus Briefing to be scheduled in 2026.

CHARGE: Make recipient recommendations to the Awards Committee for the 2026 Public Service Award and Media Award.

UPDATE: Fernanda Laezza submitted a nomination for Rep. Luttrell on behalf of the Liaison Committee for the Public Service Award and he was selected by the Awards Committee. (Confidential until award is officially announced).

CHARGE: Review any position statements or letters to Congress regarding legislation that the College may sign and make a recommendation.

UPDATE: Committee Chair, Sahib Khalsa responded to all requests for recommendations and are reported on the [ACNP Website](#).

CHARGE: Be available to provide expert consultation to members of Congress, when their senior staff and other relevant policymakers on the national or state level reach out to the College to help them better understand the complex issues surrounding areas of neuroscience research.

UPDATE: No updates to report.

CHARGE: Select a committee liaison to join the Animal Research Committee as ex officio.

UPDATE: Ryan Logan volunteered to serve as the liaison to the Animal Research Committee again this year as he served last year in 2024.

CHARGE: Develop an annual list of new and emerging companies to target participating corporations with information about the College to increase the number of applications to the Participating Corporation program. Consider companies involved in the BRAIN initiative.

UPDATE: No updates to report.

CHARGE: Establish a sub-committee that will review applications for Participating Corporations and provide a recommendation to Council for approval.

UPDATE: This subcommittee was formed to serve this purpose. They recommended approval on one application in 2025 for Arrivo BioVentures which was approved by Council. The subcommittee is currently reviewing the application for LB Pharmaceuticals.

CHARGE: Consider ways to use ACNP as a convenor for pulling together industry, academia, and government to grow the field (for example, biomarkers).

UPDATE: The Precompetitive Stakeholders Task Force was formed and lead by Kerry Ressler and Sahib Khalsa. Members of this task force met in April and June and then formed two work groups: ACNP Advancing a Core Set of Biomarkers for Precompetitive Work Group and ACNP Precompetitive Stakeholders Harmonization Workgroup. They are currently working on a draft outline for a white paper: *Toward Regulatory-Ready Biomarkers in Psychiatry: A Precompetitive Roadmap for Precision Trials*.

CHARGE: Develop strategies to educate participating corporations on the Promising Targets new submission category to group submissions from industry as well as suggest submitting articles to *NPP-Digital Psychiatry and Neuroscience*.

UPDATE: Promising Targets will open on October 13th. A reminder on the abstract submission will be sent to the participating corporations.

CHARGE: Conduct a survey to better understand what the College can offer to our advocacy affiliates to better articulate the shared objectives.

UPDATE: A subcommittee was formed, and a survey was sent to the ACNP Advocacy Affiliates on July 15.

Membership Committee

CHARGE: Evaluate nominations and make recommendations for Associate Members, Members and Fellows.

UPDATE: The membership application reviews will take place mid-October through mid-November 2025.

CHARGE: Continue to encourage individuals who do not typically apply for membership to do so, including women, government scientists, individuals from historically excluded groups, and industry scientists. Encourage such individuals to attend the meeting and otherwise participate in activities of the ACNP prior to applying for membership.

UPDATE: No updates to report.

CHARGE: Present a poster at the 2026 Annual Meeting describing the progress of membership applications and new members.

UPDATE: Lei Wang has volunteered to create the poster by September 2025. Volunteers from the committee will be requested in the fall to stand by the poster during the poster sessions at the meeting.

Nominating Committee

CHARGE: Continue affirmative attention to ensure appropriate representation of leadership.

UPDATE: This was communicated to the Nominating Committee.

Program Committee

CHARGE: Consult with the President to select ad-hoc members for the committee should there be a need for more expertise.

UPDATE: No ad hoc reviewers were added to the committee.

CHARGE: Ensure the program for the Annual Meeting has a diverse representation of topics and presenters.

UPDATE: This was highlighted in the Call for Proposals.

CHARGE: Appoint a sub-committee to work with the chairs to select Hot Topics and Data Blitz presenters. These committee members will not be expected to complete poster reviews.

UPDATE: The sub-committee was named from the members of the Program Committee. They reviewed and selected the proposals for the Hot Topics and Data Blitz sessions.

CHARGE: Continue to request all trainee poster presenters to invite up to five ACNP members they would like to have visit their poster during the annual meeting.

UPDATE: All trainees were emailed in November to request the names of the ACNP members, and the members were notified prior to the annual meeting in mid-December.

CHARGE: Develop an annual listing for emerging and under-represented fields. This may include developing an RFP for emerging and under-represented topics.

UPDATE: No update to report. The committee wishes to continue not developing an RFP for the Annual Meeting.

CHARGE: Explore opportunities for more asynchronous education opportunities from the content presented at the Annual Meeting.

UPDATE: The new initiative of adding roundtable lunch topics with luminaries' initiative in conjunction with the SLAC Committee is one way the Program Chairs have addressed this. This will be further discussed in the post-Annual Meeting call in January.

Scientific Communications Committee

CHARGE: Draft a statement that clearly and comprehensively (i) identifies the target audiences for ACNP outreach activities and provides operational definitions for the audiences that improve upon the "professional/public" dichotomy (e.g., health care providers, clinical and basic researchers, people affected by mental health-related issues, people interested in science, etc.) and (ii) identifies strategies and modes that can be used to reach these audiences (i.e., where approaches must be unique or can have overlap).

UPDATE: A Statement and Strategies Subcommittee was formed and drafted a memo and outline for Council's review during their August Meeting. The next step is taking a more detailed budget and timeline to Council during their October Council Meeting. The goal is to start the communications plan in 2026.

CHARGE: Propose two strategies to provide outreach to ACNP target audiences that (i) do not include broad/unrestricted invitations for members of the press to attend the ACNP annual meeting and (ii) recognize that the ACNP membership is heterogenous and do not create the perception that certain ACNP members are speaking for the entire organization.

UPDATE: Please see above update.

CHARGE: Engage in at least one discussion with the Senior Leaders Advising on Careers Committee (SLAC; formerly called the Emeritus Memoriam Committee) to determine if the two committees can work together to identify ACNP members who should be prioritized for activities geared toward documenting the history of ACNP and the contributions of its members to the field (e.g., via YouTube interviews, etc.), to enable efficiencies and avoid duplication of efforts.

UPDATE: Talia Lerner and Ziva Cooper (working with Suzanne Haber and Judy Ford from the SLAC Committee) have volunteered to interview Fellows or Emeritus Members. The interviews are due December 12th.

CHARGE: Develop press releases on the ACNP Honorific Awardees for 2025 which outlines their award and contributions to the field.

UPDATE: Committee members volunteered to write press releases for the 2025 Honorific Award winners.

CHARGE: Schedule one update from the Editors of the journals (NPP, DPN) and the ACNP website and obtain a hard copy of the presentation that can be shared with Council.

UPDATE: The Editors of NPP and DPN provided updates to the committee, and Todd Lencz presented his website updates on a committee call this year.

ADDITIONAL UPDATE: The committee submitted three Media Award nominations: John Oliver, Ezra Klein, and Jay Watson. Jaye Watson won the 2025 Media Award.

Senior Leaders Advising on Careers (SLAC) Committee

CHARGE: Determine data to track the engagement of membership annually (% of poster presentations, % of oral presentations, track member type of mentors per year, engagement of member type in committees, etc.).

UPDATE: The committee reviewed the data tracking engagement of membership annually over the past three years including (poster presentations, panel, mini-panel, and study group presentations, annual meeting mentor volunteers, members on committees and task forces, and continuing medical education hours).

CHARGE: Survey members on what engagement they want and what they value with the College and Annual Meeting.

UPDATE: The committee surveyed Fellows and Emeritus members on the annual meeting.

CHARGE: Facilitate the mid-late career mentorship initiative.

UPDATE: The Career Transitions Mentoring Network is live on the ACNP Website for members.

CHARGE: Develop networking reception or roundtable sessions specific to Emeritus and Fellow Members.

UPDATE: The committee plans to host a networking roundtable on Thursday from 12:00pm to 1:00pm during the January 2026 Annual Meeting marketed towards emeritus and Fellow members of the College.

CHARGE: Develop engagement opportunities for Emeritus and Fellow members and present to Council.

UPDATE: The committee proposed to bring back the discussant role as an optional role with a focus on this being an expert leader in the field and proposed this during the Program Committee Meeting on August 5th. The committee decided after speaking with the Program Committee to host "Meet the Luminaries" during the open lunch periods on Tuesday-Thursday during the January 2026 Annual Meeting. These twelve topics and table leaders have been finalized.

Global Outreach Task Force

CHARGE: Work with the committees' affiliations on outreach efforts to increase the number of global applications for Travel Awards and membership to the College.

UPDATE: The Travel Award Program flyer was distributed to the Global Outreach Task Force.

CHARGE: Discuss the Global Scholarship Program from the 2025 Annual Meeting and complete a report back to Council on findings and a request to continue for the next annual meeting if desired by the task force.

UPDATE: The Global Task Force Scholarship Program continued for the 2026 Annual Meeting. The task force requested to increase the number of in-person awardees from 3 to 5 and Council

approved. The College received 160 applications from 38 countries. There were 5 in-person scholarships and 49 virtual scholarships extended for the Annual Meeting.

CHARGE: Discuss if the Global Outreach Task Force would like to host the Global Outreach Reception again at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

UPDATE: The task force agreed to host the Global Task Force Reception at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

CHARGE: Evaluate the success of the ACNP-AfCNP Neuropsychopharmacology Schools in Africa in 2025. Extend waived virtual invitations to the 2026 ACNP Annual Meeting for the 2025 students in the ACNP-AfCNP Neuropsychopharmacology School.

UPDATE: The school attracted 27 early career researchers from 14 African countries. The number of applicants also saw a remarkable rise, doubling from 242 in 2024 to 556 in 2025. Please view the [report](#) from the 2025 school. Virtual invitations to the January 2026 ACNP Annual Meeting for the 2025 students and 2024 students in the ACNP-AfCNP Neuropsychopharmacology School have been extended.

CHARGE: Develop a closer relationship with ECNP to discuss opportunities for the organizations to partner to advance industry, academia, and government collaborations to advance therapeutics.

UPDATE: No updates to report.

Near-Peer Mentoring Task Force

CHARGE: Review program and facilitate training sessions for the Near-Peer Mentorship program with content developed by the Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research (CIMER).

UPDATE: The Task Force has successfully facilitated training sessions for the 2025 cohort and added 2 booster sessions in May and June 2025, which were available for current and previous program participants to attend.

CHARGE: Review feedback from each program training session and the final evaluation of the program to evaluate the success of the program and report to Council.

UPDATE: The task force reviewed the evaluation results for the program sessions and made changes to extend the orientation session to 2 hours, add a new mentor FAQ virtual session prior to the Annual Meeting and made multiple changes to allow for more discussion time within the program sessions based on feedback from participants.

CHARGE: Develop ways for past cohorts to engage with new cohorts.

UPDATE: A Discord channel was set up for the program participants to use; however, there has not been any activity amongst participants on the channel this year.

CHARGE: Showcase Near-Peer Mentee posters and presenters at the annual meeting (add rosettes to the poster boards).

UPDATE: The program mentees will now be scheduled at the poster session with the Travel Awardees and will have rosettes for the Near-Peer program to showcase their participation.