

**ACNP Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 14, 2025
7:00pm – 9:30pm Eastern Time
Hera Meeting Room**

Bill Carlezon, Presiding

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

Executive Director: Sarah Timm
Staff: Erin Shearon

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

Associate Members: Alexander Harris (Associate Members have voice but no vote)
Millie Rincón-Cortés

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

**Associate Members on Council recused from Membership Committee report to Council.*

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.

- 1. Membership Committee Report to Council*** – Olu Ajilore reported to Council the results of the Membership Committee meeting that took place on Sunday, January 11th. The Membership Committee received 99 applications for Associate Member, 74 applications for Member and 36 applications for Member to Fellow promotion. There were 26 applicants for Member to Fellow promotion that qualified for automatic promotion. The

remaining 10 applications were reviewed by the Membership Committee and were accepted if 65% of the committee approved their promotion to Fellow. There was a higher number of applications for membership this year compared to last year as members were allowed to nominate two candidates for Associate Member and two candidates for Member. Previously the second nomination in each category was specifically for a woman or individual from a historically excluded group. Starting in 2026, members will be allowed to nominate one candidate for Associate Member and one candidate for Member with a second nomination only permitted if the individual is from a disadvantaged background as defined by the ACNP. According to the bylaws, the committee was able to accept 83 new members and voted to recommend 38 Members and 45 Associate Members. It was questioned why there are so few applications from individuals in industry. It was advised the Membership Committee has discussed this several times in recent years and encouraged individuals from industry to apply. The committee also developed an optional document for industry applicants to complete to further elaborate on their career accomplishments. Feedback from industry members is that they feel that they are not as competitive as applicants from academia. S. Timm encouraged Council members to encourage industry applicants to consider applying. There was a motion, second, and all of Council voted to approve the recommendations from the committee for new Associate Member, Member, and Member to Fellow promotion. Council thanked O. Ajilore and the Membership Committee for all their hard work. O. Ajilore thanked T. Smith for her assistance in 2025.

Below are the statistics for full Member:

- Member acceptance rate – 51%
- Industry applied – 4
- Industry accepted into membership – 1 (25%)
- Government applied – 5
- Government accepted into membership – 3 (60%)
- Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds applied – 13
- Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds accepted into membership – 6 (46%)

Below are the statistics for Associate Member:

- Associate Member acceptance rate – 45%
- Industry applied – 3
- Industry accepted into associate membership – 1 (33%)
- Government applied – 5
- Government accepted into associate membership – 2 (40%)
- Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds applied – 26
- Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds accepted into associate membership – 9 (35%)

The accepted Members are:

Aaron Alexander-Bloch
Justin Baker
David Beversdorf
Chad Bousman
Andre Brunoni
Joseph Dunsmoor
Daniel Eisenberg
Sarah Feldstein Ewing
Tamar Gur
Margaret Hahn
Elizabeth Heller
Drew Kiraly
Anna Konova
Alex Kwan
Ellen Lee
Kristina Legget
Matthew MacDonald
Catherine Marcinkiewicz
Leah Mayo

Michael Meaney
Caroline Menard
Mike Michaelides
Gemma Modinos
Shinichiro Nakajima
Ana Pocivavsek
Abigail Powers
Amynah Pradhan
Millie Rincón-Cortés
Jesse Schank
Marianne Seney
Morgan Sheng
Irina Strigo
Chad Sylvester
Lucina Uddin
Gayle Wittenberg
Yihong Yang
Sarah Yip
Kymberly Young

The accepted Associate Members are:

Mahavir Agarwal
Anita Autry
Venkat Bhat
Jessica Bomyea
Evan Bordt
Sarah Canetta
Hengyi Cao
Daniel Castro
Wei-li Chang
Youngsun Cho
Lora Cope
Alessandro De Nadai
James Fajemiroye
Megan Fox
Kirsten Gilbert
Felipe Gomes
Peter Hamilton
Sophie Holmes
Orna Issler
Maria Jalbrzikowski
Paule Joseph
Vijay Mohan K Namboodiri
Helmet Karim

Hollis Karoly
Alfred Kaye
Mark Kvarta
Hao Li
Caitlin Martin
Philipp Mews
Jones Parker
Giulio Pergola
Kathryn Ridout
Joshua Rosenblat
Jose Rubio
Shan Siddiqi
Lucas Sjulson
Sarah Sperry
Sarah Stern
Sunny Tang
Wan-Ling Tseng
Krishna C. Vadodaria
Daphne Voineskos
Georgios Voloudakis
Yunyu Xiao
Nicole Zurcher

The accepted Members to Fellow are:

Nika Adham	Christoph Kellendonk
Randy Auerbach	Lori Knackstedt
Debra Bangasser	Fang Liu
Matthew Banks	Mary Kay Lobo
Camron Bryant	John Mantsch
Camilo de la Fuente-Sandoval	Antigona Martinez
Christine Ann Denny	Nadine Melhem
Faith Dickerson	Mohammed Milad
Christie Fowler	Tsuyoshi Miyakawa
Olivier George	Hirofumi Morishita
Colleen Hanlon	Gretchen Neigh
Cecilia Hillard	Noah Philip
Sergio Iniguez	Tarek Rajji
Amy Janes	Brian Trainor
Hadine Joffe	Rudolf Uher
Thomas Kash	Natalie Zahr

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.*

- 2. *Website Editor's Report*** – Todd Lencz presented the Website Editor's report to Council. He advised that the annual number of visitors to the ACNP website has increased over the last several years; however, still follows the page trends with most visits to the annual meeting and information on membership webpages. Most website visits come from a desktop compared to a mobile device or tablet. Members tend to spend longer on the website compared to non-members. The website has a large digital library with most visitors viewing content for *Neuropsychopharmacology*. T. Lencz advised the website has been successful since the redesign in 2017; however, the site uses an outdated template so some pages of the website are limited to what can be updated. If Council agrees to make significant changes to the site, the College will need to move forward with a website rebuild. As T. Lencz is also on the Scientific Communications Committee, the website would need to align with the College's identified communications strategy and style. It was noted that both journals (NPP and DPN) have podcasts; however, the DPN podcast is not included on the ACNP website. The Executive Office will link the DPN podcasts to the ACNP website. It was questioned if any functionality was missing from the website. T. Lencz stated that no functionality was missing; however, some could be improved. He stated that corporate companies redo their website every 2-3 years where associations update their websites every 10 years. Council agreed to hold on a website rebuild until after the brand guide creation is completed.
- 3. *NPP Journal Report*** – T. George and L. Monteggia presented the NPP Co-Principal Editor's report to Council. The 2025 goals were:
 - To ensure NPP is a preferred venue for publishing innovative psychiatric neuroscience research

- To be responsive to the ACNP, and to the field, to ensure the high quality of NPP
- To innovate in what we publish: more reviews, research highlights, perspectives, early career commentaries, and brief reports (new in 2026)
- To strengthen NPPR with topical themes and world class contributors
- To recruit highly engaged and knowledgeable scientists to Senior Editor and Editorial Board Member (EBM) positions:
 - Will foster diversity, including more women and international EBMs (currently comprised of 66 members)
 - New Senior Editors in 2025: Arpana Agrawal and Kate Fitzgerald

The 2025 accomplishments were:

- NPPR 2026 (Mental Illness: Part 1 – Trajectories of Mental Health and Illness Across Child and Adolescent Development and Part 2 – Trajectories of Mental Health and Illness Across the Later Years of Life):
 - Part 1 was led by Sophia Vinogradov, Damien Fair, Chad Sylvester, and Brenden Tervo-Clemmens
 - Part 2 was led by Chip Reynolds and Olu Ajilore
- Impact factor increased from 6.6 to 7.1, and total submissions: 1,408
- Three early career commentaries were published in 2025
- The Special Projects team, led by Brianna George, published weekly online summaries of AOP publications, “This Week in NPP”
- 2025 NPP Intern: Friederike Holze
- 2026 NPP Intern: Brianna George
- Monthly podcasts led by Cynthia Graber and Taylor Custis (BrainPod)
- Strong social media presence led by Leah Mayo

The 2027 issue of NPPR will be focused on *Artificial Intelligence in Psychiatry* led by Martin Paulus and Sahib Khalsa. F. Holze’s project as intern showed that among countries, China was the second highest in number of submissions to NPP after the US; however, submissions from China had the lowest acceptance rate. L. Monteggia presented Brief Reports, new in 2026. These are short reports of 1,500 words, one figure or table, 15 references, and a 50-word abstract. These reports will be either accept vs reject with no major revisions. The APC charge for Brief Reports is discounted to \$2,574. The editors will report back next year on the progress of the Brief Reports initiative. The strategic plan for NPP is the following:

- Maintain the increase in NPP submissions (32% increase since January 2023)
- Establish NPP Brief Reports
- Continue to build the senior editor team and editorial board
- Continue to refine and build the social media presence and special projects team activities
- Be responsive to needs of members while continuing to promote the journal
- Discussion regarding the role of animals in research and the potential impact on the journal

Council thanked L. Monteggia and T. George for all their hard work on the journal.

- ***Memo on Additional Staffing*** – The Editors advised there is a need for additional staffing in the journal with the increase of the number of submissions and the addition of DPN. S. Timm advised the Editorial Office worked with Origin Editorial for many years which is a publishing house; however, has made the decision to bring all editorial responsibilities in-house. The additional staffing would be a \$30K increase in the budget. There was a motion, second, and all of Council approved the additional staffing for the Editorial Office.
 - ***Update on NPP/DPN Contract Negotiations with Springer Nature*** – S. Timm reminded Council that the NPP contract with Springer Nature ends on December 31, 2026 and the contract with DPN ends on December 31, 2027. The Editorial Office engaged with Martin Delahunty from the UK who is with Inspiring STEM Consulting, on negotiations with Springer Nature. NPP has seen a decrease in our revenue from approximately \$1M to around \$800K. S. Timm is recommending to Council that NPP go to tender with other publishers. Negotiations with Springer Nature made some headway; however, according to S. Timm’s knowledge of the field, the offer was not competitive. Springer Nature will be sent the RFP in hopes of a better proposal. The RFP will also be sent to Wiley, Oxford University Press, Elsevier, and Wolters Kluwer. S. Timm noted that if Elsevier chooses to bid, they will need to state how NPP is different from *Biological Psychiatry*. S. Timm suggested that Council consider appointing a small task force to evaluate proposals and make a recommendation to Council. S. Timm suggested D. Rubinow serve on this task force as Treasurer to provide a fiscal perspective when reviewing the proposals. There was a motion, second, and all of Council were in favor of going to tender with other publishers. The task force will be finalized via email after the annual meeting.
4. ***DPN Journal Report*** – B. Carlezon presented the Principal Editor’s report for DPN. The Editorial Board members are B. Carlezon, Justin Baker, Brenda Curtis, Sam Golden, Sophia Hupalo, Chloe Jordan, Catherine Pena, John Tourus, and Britton Barbee. DPN highlights included the following:
- Officially launched on August 15, 2023
 - APC is \$2,190
 - Several unique article types including Primers, Registered Reports, and Consensus articles
 - Now listed in PMC/PubMed which was finalized on December 8, 2025
 - In June 2025, DPN reached the criteria (30 papers) enabling application for indexing in Web of Science and a journal Impact Factor (Clarivate). The application is currently pending which could take several months.
 - In July 2025, renewed appointments for all Senior Editors and Editorial Board Members for another two-year term
 - In July 2025, launched AI-generated Podcasts.
 - In August 2025, launched a presence on Reddit.
 - In September 2025, established an annual Top Reviewer Award.
 - In December 2025, reached the criteria (50 papers) for listing in Scopus.

B. Carlezon gave a brief presentation on DPN at the TIPS Summit in December. DPN provides a New Investigator Waiver Award a few times a year if they meet certain criteria. The DPN Deep Dive is the new AI generated podcast that provides an overview of the latest publication in six minutes or less. The goals for year three (August 25-July 26) are the following:

- Continue to attract the top manuscripts in this domain
- Publish three primers
- Offer New Investigator Waiver Awards (2-4)
- Use 30 of 45 available waivers by end of year three (currently at 21)
- Reduce acceptance rate to <50%
- Upon reaching 50 published papers, begin setting up Collections
- Generate an AI podcast on each DPN paper with maintaining a “human touch”
- Continue to refine social media strategies
- Phase in a Top 5 Reviewer Recognition Award
- Establish a Top Paper Award

Council thanked B. Carlezon for all his hard work on DPN.

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.*

5. ***Precompetitive Stakeholders Workgroup*** – K. Ressler advised a goal for ACNP was to be a convenor for academia, industry, government, and regulatory for discovery of new treatments in the field. The workgroup has been discussing moving biomarkers forward with academia, industry, and the precompetitive space, and is currently finalizing a white paper, *Toward Actionable Biomarkers in Psychiatry: A Collaborative Roadmap for Precision Clinical Trials*. This white paper will be submitted as a consensus to DPN. The workgroup members consist of the following: K. Ressler, Sahib Khalsa, Wayne Drevets, B. Carlezon, Amit Etkins, Husseini Manji, Hartmuth Kolb, Danielle Graham, Bernard Fischer, Marion Leboyer, Martien Kas, Valentina Mantua, Neill Epperson, D. Barch, Frank Yocca, Hugh Marston, and Lauren Liss. The white paper will be finalized over the next few weeks. K. Ressler questioned if ACNP should be included as a position paper in the title. It was noted that ACNP has sponsored white papers in the past; however, it would need Council’s approval. After the white paper is finalized, the workgroup will discuss if there is a plan for phase two to continue and how to use ACNP as a convenor for that discussion. K. Ressler thanked Megan Sieling and Kat Coffen for their support and assistance with the workgroup in 2025. Council thanked K. Ressler and S. Khalsa for their assistance chairing the workgroup.

Operational/Governance Items:

6. ***ABC Sign-on Letter*** – The American Brain Coalition requested the College sign-on to the neuroscience community letter expressing concern regarding the decision by HHS to not renew the contract of Walter Koroshetz, NINDS Director. Sahib Khalsa, Liaison

Committee chair, has recommended the College sign-on. Council requested to review the letter and vote via email after the meeting.

7. ***SLACK*** – Council discussed if they would like to continue using SLACK as a means for communication in 2026. The College currently pays \$44.82 per month for this service. After discussion, Council agreed to only use SLACK as a means for communication over the next three months and then reevaluate. It was requested for T. Bale to provide a tutorial which will be scheduled in February.
8. ***Thank you to Council Members Rotating Off*** – B. Carlezon thanked K. Ressler, R. Goldstein, and C. McClung for their service to Council over the years. B. Carlezon also thanked A. Harris and M. Rincón-Cortés for their service as Associate Members on Council.
9. ***Thank you to 2025 President, Bill Carlezon*** – Council thanked B. Carlezon for his leadership over the past year.

Information Items:

10. ***Submitted Committee Reports*** – Council reviewed the submitted committee reports.
11. ***Empowerment Committee Report*** – Council reviewed the Empowerment Committee report.
12. ***Experience & Resilience Committee Report*** – Council reviewed the Experience & Resilience Committee report.
13. ***Strategic Plan*** – Council reviewed the updated Strategic Plan.

The meeting concluded at 9:00 PM Eastern Time.