American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
bulletin



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Reflections on my Year as Associate Member on ACNP Council

Serving as Associate Member on ACNP Council this past year has been among the most rewarding professional experiences of my career. In this role, I had the opportunity to contribute to both the Task Force for Diversity Programs and the Affordability and Meeting Location Task Force as well as engage directly with Council members across a range of consequential decisions, all during a particularly challenging moment in our field.

Chairing the Experience and Resilience Committee while simultaneously serving on Council created a uniquely valuable feedback loop. The work of our committee kept me closely attuned to the concerns and experiences of members, which I could bring directly into Council discussions. At the same time, the access and perspective I gained from Council allowed me to bring context and candor back to our committee and task force work. That bidirectional exchange made both roles richer, and I don't think I could have done either as well without the other.

Being on Council this year, amid mounting pressures around diversity, equity and inclusion in academic medicine and science, gave me a much deeper appreciation for how ACNP leadership operates. I came away with a richer understanding of the College's priorities, inner workings, and

the thoughtful care placed on financial and organizational decisions that will shape our future. I was surprised to see how intentional Council is with regards to creating spaces for members to voice those concerns and how those perspectives are woven into the decision-making process. I consistently saw a commitment to bringing broader membership into the conversation. I was also struck by the proactive steps leadership took to safeguard the College's programs and interests in an uncertain environment. This diligence gave me real confidence in the organization's resilience.

Collaborating with such dedicated scientists and clinicians during a challenging year reinforced for me why this community matters. This experience has deepened my commitment to the ACNP and to continuing to contribute to its mission. I leave this role more invested in the future of this organization than when I began.

Thank you for this opportunity.

In service,

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