American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
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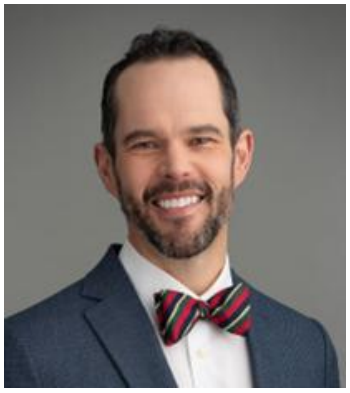

Ryan Herringa, M.D., Ph.D.
Career Development Committee 2025 Chair

Degrees of Uncertainty: Surviving Science

The Career Development Session focused on empowering early career scientists to thrive in today's evolving research funding landscape. As federal support for scientific research faces increasing uncertainty, the session highlighted practical strategies and alternative career pathways. The panel featured leaders from academia, government, and industry who shared candid insights on building resilience and fulfilling careers across sectors.

Carolyn, Rodriguez, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor Stanford University discussed opportunities and strategies for navigating academic career paths, including mentorship, promotion pathways and sustaining research programs.

Judith Ford, Ph.D., Professor, University of California, San Francisco and Research Scientist with the Department of Veterans Affairs, spoke about working at the VA, and shared information for Brain and Behavior Research Foundation (BBRF) Young Investigator grant opportunities.

Pamela Feliciano, Ph.D., Scientist, Division of Genetics and Genomics at Boston Children's Hospital and Instructor, Department of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School highlighted translational research careers and her former experience as a Scientist at the Simons Foundation which she played a key role in building SPARK For Autism.

Dawn Ionescu, M.D., Executive Medical Director Neuroscience Experimental Medicine, Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine, shared perspectives on transitioning to industry and her pathway through drug development and innovation.

Together, the panelists emphasized adaptability, networking, and proactive career planning. Participants were also provided the opportunity to ask questions and engage directly with the panelists during an interactive Q&A session.

The session reinforced ACNP's commitment to supporting the next generation of scientists equipping them with shared knowledge to pursue diverse and meaningful career paths.

Click here to view the recording.