



Tracy L. Bale, Ph.D., ACNP Program Committee Chair

63rd Annual ACNP Program

It has been a great privilege to work with the outstanding 2024 Program Committee this year. We had an incredible team with diverse backgrounds and expertise who did the hard work and time commitment to examine all 142 submitted proposals and provide quality reviews across panels, mini-panels, and study groups for a final Program of 35 Panels, 11 mini-panels, and 8 study groups. We began all our meetings with a discussion and reminder that our goal was to identify novel high-quality science that will be of great interest to an ACNP audience. Our priority for speakers was to ensure we paid attention to inclusivity and diversity across race, gender, geographical/institutional locations, career stage and historically excluded groups, holding all submissions and reviews to the same bar. It was not an easy task, but this committee did an amazing job with respectful discussion around topic areas and proposal details. The final Program is a fantastic mix of research areas and approaches, a great diversity of speakers, and exciting science. Sessions are aimed to highlight a breadth of topics vital to neuropsychiatric disease research, including neuropharmacology, women's health, and the importance of understanding the roles of diversity and equity in mental health research.

The Program Committee are reviewing all 981 poster abstracts and programming them into topic areas, and additional committee volunteers are reviewing the early career abstracts for the Data Blitz and the hottest science for the Hot Topics sessions. These sessions are always a member

favorite and attract large and engaged audiences, showcasing the best and most exciting science and our outstanding early career colleagues. Make sure you check them out and then attend their posters, too.

One of the changes to the Program this year was in response to attendee feedback regarding study groups. Generally, attendees felt that too many study groups were detracting from the science of the meeting and that there was a great deal of variability in the format and quality of study group panels. This year, we limited study groups to 8 total, and we provided more specific details on expectations for study group discussions and topics. There were some great submissions this year, and the final 8 accepted will no doubt be very well attended.

An exciting new addition to the ACNP Program this year is a Late Breaking session, “Promising Targets” around breaking the blind in trials and hot-off-the-press pharmacology data; a focus on the importance of clinical trials and drug pharmacology. Often, these studies are not able to submit ACNP abstracts due to the early submission deadline before the ACNP meeting and the strict data and statistical criteria we have. Clinical trials are not able to break their blinds until sufficient data have been collected, placing time limits on scientists’ access to results. Similarly, this session will provide exciting last-minute pharmacology and drug target data that could inform ACNP members’ future studies. Up to six abstracts focused on significant, ground-breaking, and innovative results will be selected to give 10-minute talks in this session.

I would like to thank Helen Mayberg for asking me to serve as 2024 Program Chair and for working together to create a fabulous Program. I would also like to thank Vickie Risbrough and acknowledge her contribution to the ACNP Program as the outgoing Chair and Staci Bilbo as the incoming Chair. Lastly, and importantly, I want to thank Tori Swinehart, Erin Shaw and Sarah Timm and the rest of the Parthenon staff for their incredible work and dedication to ensuring a successful 2024 ACNP Annual Meeting. See you in Phoenix in December!