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Happy Spring! We've already had enough news and sea change to fill an entire year, and yet we are only 5 months into 2025.

Despite the changes we've faced as individuals, as an organization, and as a field, I'm delighted to report that we've made headway on all of the Presidential Goals described during the rein-transfer ceremony last December. The show must go on—and there is considerable progress. Most important for this Bulletin is that we have finalized the topic for the Presidential Plenary session, which serves as an unofficial theme to kick-off the annual meeting. This year we will be focusing on “Psychiatry below the neck: body-brain interactions”. We have an excellent roster of plenary speakers who will provide new insights into how peripheral systems affect mental health. And, as you might expect from an organization that includes thought-leaders in digital psychiatry, we will also be featuring experts on the use of digitally-based procedures and endpoints that can be applied across species. These themes seem particularly timely as we all think more carefully about how to maximize the impact of our efforts to better understand and treat neuropsychiatric illness.

As you make your plans for the annual meeting, please remember that there are a few important differences this year. Foremost, the annual meeting is in January—meaning that there is no conference in calendar year 2025. This is the first of 3 consecutive years where the annual meeting will be in January, enabling us to explore a membership survey suggestion to test out dates that are not in the midst of the holiday season. In addition, for this next meeting, all events are shifted by a day: whereas in past years the scientific events (including the Presidential

Plenary) started on Sunday and ended on Wednesday, this year the scientific events start on Monday and end on Thursday. Another important thing to remember is that a passport is needed for travel to the Bahamas. Please plan accordingly!

While opening day may have an unofficial (“Body-Brain”) theme, as always the Program Committee will be working tirelessly to ensure that the annual meeting is well-rounded and appealing to the full scope of our membership. There is no official theme, nor are there topics or speakers that will ensure acceptance of panels or study groups.

**Panel, Mini-Panel, and Study Group Proposals:** The Program Committee is accepting proposals for panels, mini-panels, and study groups for consideration for the January 2026 Annual Meeting. Please [click here](#) for additional information. Please see below for the upcoming proposal deadlines. The final deadline to submit is June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Submission of Individual Presenter Abstracts (Panel & Mini-Panel)  
**DEADLINE: Tuesday, June 10, 2025**

Submission of Disclosures and Attestations by Study Group Participants:  
**DEADLINE: Tuesday, June 10, 2025**

Chairs Review & Finalize Proposed Sessions (Panels, Mini-Panels, and Study Groups)  
**DEADLINE: Thursday, June 12, 2025**

**Award Nominations:** We are now accepting nominations for the 2025 Honorific Awards. This is a great opportunity to honor and recognize individuals who have made an impact on neuropsychopharmacology and/or the College. The Honorific Awards Committee—which is made up of a group of ACNP members with a history of leadership and deep understanding of the organization—urges you to nominate a deserving colleague. You may notice that the names of some of these awards have been modified since last year, but ACNP remains steadfast in our core missions.

- The **Daniel H. Efron Research Award** honors the recipient for excellence in basic research, the **Joel Elkes Research Award** for excellence in clinical research, and the **Eva King Killam Research Award** for excellence in translational research. Nominees for the Efron, Elkes, and Killam Awards must be within fifteen (15) years of their terminal training position as of December 31, 2025 (i.e., post-doctoral training; residency or fellowship training for M.D.’s who did not do post-doctoral training). Nominees can request extensions based on work interruptions due to parental leave, dependent care, illness, or other extenuating circumstances. Recipients who have had a significant life event may include background information in their nomination about the life event for the committee to consider (e.g., birth of a child, childcare, illness of individual, care for an ill family member, personal or family tragedy, etc.).
- The **Barbara Fish Memorial Award** is presented to an ACNP member who has made an outstanding contribution to basic, translational, or clinical neuroscience. The award is named in honor of Dr. Barbara Fish, a pioneering researcher who was a founding

member of ACNP. The award is open to all full and emeritus ACNP members; the nominator must also be an ACNP member. The selection of the nominee is based on a mature body of work, notable for its impact, innovation, and depth. The body of work should further the mission of the College by advancing the understanding of causes, prevention, and treatment of diseases of the nervous system.

- The **Julius Axelrod Mentorship Award** is presented to an ACNP member who has made an outstanding contribution to neuropsychopharmacology by mentoring and developing young scientists into leaders in the field. Previous winners of the Dolores Shockley Advancement Award are not eligible.
- The **Dolores Shockley Advancement Award** is presented to an individual and/or program (e.g., department, initiative, institute, etc.) that has had outstanding success promoting individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds within the fields of basic, clinical or translational neuroscience. Nominations of individuals and programs will be considered separately, so an award may be given in both categories in any one year. Previous winners of the Julius Axelrod Mentorship Award are not eligible.
- The **Advocacy Award** is presented to an individual and/or program (e.g., department, initiative, institute, etc.) who has had outstanding success alleviating the gender imbalance within the field of brain and behavior disorders. This award is intended to be an expression of appreciation from the College to honor individuals and/or programs for their outstanding work supporting individuals through role modeling, allyship, leadership, and sponsorship. We encourage nominations of all genders. Nominations of individuals and programs will be considered separately, so an award may be given in both categories in any one year.
- The **ACNP Media Award** may be given annually to a member of the print or electronic media, advocacy organization, or public education initiative that promotes increased awareness of brain research and who has made a major contribution to the education of the public about mental illness and substance abuse research and the positive impact of research on treatment.
- The **ACNP Public Service Award** may be given annually to a member of the government, an advocacy organization or a public education initiative that promotes increased awareness of brain research and the impact it has on people's lives. The award is intended to be an expression of appreciation from the College toward outstanding public leaders who provide complete, accurate, and unbiased information to our society about brain diseases.
- The **Paul Hoch Distinguished Service Award** is presented to an ACNP member who has made unusually significant contributions to the College.

All nominations are due by **July 15, 2024**. Instructions for award nomination are available on the ACNP website, <https://acnp.org/annual-meeting/honorific-grants/>.

**Membership Nominations:** Please nominate individuals from academia, government and industry who will contribute to the mission of the College and continue to enrich our organization. In 2025, each ACNP Member, Fellow, and Emeritus may nominate two candidates

for Associate Membership and full Membership. *Please note that this policy is different than in past years (i.e., there are no restrictions this year).* The policy is likely to be yet again different next year, as we will be seeking the input of membership for guidance on how to be maximally supportive of early-career investigators while recognizing that a larger number of nominations also means a higher proportion of nominees will be disappointed by the outcome. It is important to remember that ACNP Membership overwhelmingly supports keeping the College and the annual meeting small, which is one of the features that distinguishes us from other organizations operating in overlapping domains. The size of the organization, and all of the complexities that would accompany growth beyond our current size, continues to be a priority issue for the membership and its elected leaders.

Nomination materials for new Member, Associate Member, and Fellow promotion candidates are available under the Membership tab on the ACNP website. <https://acnp.org/membership/applications-nominations/> Applications will open later this summer with the deadline to submit of September 25, 2025.