



American College of Neuropsychopharmacology

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Keri Martinowich given the ACNP Daniel H. Efron Research Award

The American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) has named Keri Martinowich, Ph.D. as a winner of the 2023 Daniel H. Efron Research Award for outstanding basic research contributions to neuropsychopharmacology.

Dr. Martinowich is currently a Lead Investigator at the Lieber Institute for Brain Development (LIBD) and Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD. Since joining LIBD over a decade ago, Dr. Martinowich has developed a prolific research program that takes an innovative, cross-species approach to study how programs of gene expression in defined cell populations contribute to circuit function and the control of behaviors relevant to psychiatric, neurodevelopmental, and neurodegenerative disorders. As a thought leader in the field, Dr. Martinowich is a Fellow of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology and currently serves on the Membership Committee and as Senior Editor of Social Media for the journal, *Neuropsychopharmacology*. In addition to the success of her research program, she is an exemplary mentor to students and young investigators and is the Head of Education & Training Programs for the LIBD.

Dr. Martinowich's lab has made major advances in the understanding how changes in neural activity downstream of neurotrophin signaling contribute to the function of brain circuits that mediate complex behaviors. This fundamental body of work has provided profound insight into the design of cell type- and circuit-specific strategies for manipulation of brain-derived neurotrophic factor and its downstream signal transduction pathways. Her group is additionally recognized as world-leading experts in human brain transcriptomics, including implementing emerging single cell and spatial transcriptomics approaches and analysis strategies. By integrating molecular, cellular, and systems-level techniques with cell type-specific and spatially-resolved transcriptomic data in the human brain, Dr. Martinowich can identify promising molecular or cellular associations of disease, and then test causality and function in translational models to prioritize them for the development of novel molecular therapeutics.

Dr. Martinowich is a leader in the area of molecular regulation of circuits that govern behavior and a pioneer in the study of cell type and spatially-resolved patterns of gene expression in the human brain. These bold and creative approaches have provided a platform for her future work to develop novel molecular therapeutics for neuropsychiatric disorders, while contributing to the training of the next generation of diverse neuroscientists. She is highly deserving of the 2023 Efron Award from ACNP.

The Daniel H. Efron Research Award presented at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the ACNP is in recognition of outstanding basic research contributions to neuropsychopharmacology. The selection of the awardee is based on the quality of the contribution and its impact in advancing neuropsychopharmacology.

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ACNP, founded in 1961, is a professional organization of more than 1100 leading scientists, including four Nobel Laureates. The mission of ACNP is to further research and education in neuropsychopharmacology and related fields in the following ways: promoting the interaction of a broad range of scientific disciplines of brain and behavior in order to advance the understanding of prevention and treatment of disease of the nervous system including psychiatric, neurological, behavioral and addictive disorders; encouraging scientists to enter research careers in fields related to these disorders and their treatment; and ensuring the dissemination of relevant scientific advances.