Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Americans for Medical Progress and ACNP Announce Dr. Molly Willging as 2026–2027 BRAD Fellow

Washington, D.C – August 3, 2026 - Americans for Medical Progress (AMP), in partnership with the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP), is pleased to announce Dr. Molly Willging as the newest recipient of the Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD) Fellowship.

Dr. Willging is a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research examines reproductive health, menopause, metabolism, and brain aging, with a particular focus on understanding how estrogen influences these processes. Throughout her career, she has conducted research using multiple animal models, including nonhuman primates, to investigate complex biological questions that cannot be answered through other approaches alone.

The BRAD Fellowship recognizes early-career scientists who are passionate about communicating the value of animal research while building leadership skills in public engagement and advocacy.

Throughout her career, Dr. Willging has demonstrated a strong commitment to mentorship and education. She has received fellowships in women's health research and scientific teaching, served as a visiting professor of biological sciences, mentored undergraduate researchers, and participated in community outreach events such as Pint of Science, where she presented biomedical research to public audiences.

As part of the fellowship, Dr. Willging plans to develop new outreach initiatives throughout North Carolina's Research Triangle. Her goals include organizing community science events featuring researchers who use animal models and creating accessible presentations at libraries and community centers that foster open conversations about biomedical research.

Reflecting on her motivation for applying, Dr. Willging wrote:
“Throughout my twelve-year tenure engaging with research at the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center, I felt extremely privileged to have the opportunity to work with nonhuman primates. I feel a great sense of responsibility to share the importance of animal models in biomedical research and the unique translational qualities of these studies.”

She also shared her vision for the fellowship:
"I am determined, enthusiastic, and fully committed to providing meaningful discourse on animal models in biomedical research."

The ACNP/AMP BRAD Fellowship equips scientists with the communication skills and professional network needed to become effective ambassadors for biomedical research and offers the opportunity to raise awareness about the essential role of animals in clinical and basic research for brain-behavior-drug interactions, advancements in psychopharmacology, and careers in the field.

For more information about the BRAD Fellowship, visit https://www.bradglobal.org/become-a-brad-fellow.

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About Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD)
Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD) is a global outreach initiative that empowers scientists, students, institutions, and organizations to engage their communities in conversations about the essential role of animals in biomedical research and the medical advances that benefit both people and animals.