

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Announcing the 2025-2026 ACNP-AMP BRAD Fellow, an Outreach and Education Initiative

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rachel Puralewski, Ph.D., a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has been awarded the [ACNP-AMP BRAD Fellowship](#). The fellowship is a partnership between the [American College of Neuropsychopharmacology](#) and the health research advocacy group [Americans for Medical Progress \(AMP\)](#). The fellowship aims to raise public awareness about the importance of research for mental health disorders and other brain-behavior topics, including drug interactions, as well as the role of animal studies required for this work.

Dr. Puralewski shares that, “during my next year as an ACNP-AMP BRAD fellow, I look forward to bringing together animal and clinical researchers in support of animal-based biomedical research. I hope to inspire more BRAD participation by building partnerships between bench, animal, and clinical scientists so everyone can feel educated and empowered to advocate for animal research.”

[Biomedical Research Awareness Day \(BRAD\)](#) is an AMP-run outreach program that educates the public about why, when and how animals are involved in research. Launched in 2016, BRAD is an international day of events hosted by individual research institutions, staff and volunteers. Together, they collectively honor the important role of animals in improving both human and veterinary medicine. The program also highlights careers in the field. BRAD continues to grow and reach new audiences every year through the imagination and passion of the ACNP-AMP BRAD Fellows, the [BRAD Champions](#) and Ambassadors who lead the effort at their own institutions, and the many other volunteers who come together to provide this unique educational outreach program.

Dr. Rachel Puralewski is a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has over 12 years’ experience in translational psychiatric research with rodent and nonhuman primate species. She received her B.S. in Neuroscience from the University of Pittsburgh in 2015, and her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from UW-Madison in 2023 under the mentorship of Dr. Ned Kalin. Her dissertation characterized the emergence of anxious temperament in infant rhesus macaques as it relates to the development of prefrontal-limbic brain function. Dr. Puralewski aims to continue investigating the early-life neural factors that underlie psychopathology development in her future research career, and looks forward to starting a post-doctoral fellowship with Dr. Melissa Brotman in the Neuroscience and Novel Therapeutics Unit at the National Institute of Mental Health this fall. Dr. Puralewski is also passionate about science education and outreach, and enjoys mentoring young scientists, teaching, and organizing educational outreach events in Madison for youth, parents, and community members.

Note to Editors: A high-resolution image of Dr. Rachel Puralewski can be [downloaded at this link](#).

About the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology

The American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, ACNP, founded in 1961, is a professional organization of more than 1,100 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.

About Americans for Medical Progress

Americans for Medical Progress (AMP) is a nonprofit, health research advocacy group that supports the advancement of human and animal medicine through responsible and highly-regulated research in animals. AMP informs the public about animal-based research through outreach events like Biomedical Research Awareness Day, news and opinion articles, social media interactions and various online and printed publications. AMP is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charity supported by the nation's top universities, private research facilities, research-related businesses, scientific and professional societies, as well as by foundation grants and contributions by individuals. AMP's Board of Directors is composed of physicians, researchers, veterinarians and university officials.

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