American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
bulletin



Deanna Barch, Ph.D., ACNP President

Hello all! 2026 is proving to be an eventful year to date, and my hope is that the remainder of the year will bring good news in terms of improved understanding of and treatments for psychiatric and neurological disorders, and renewed support for both fundamental and translational science. The problems we are tackling as a field are challenging, but the pace of discovery in biomedical research is truly accelerating, and the people who will benefit from these findings need such significant advances.

Fortunately, we have made significant progress on the Presidential Goals that I outlined during our most recent ACNP Annual Meeting in January. We have been working to enhance and expand our advocacy efforts, including partnering with several other organizations to advocate for continued support for biomedical research. Further, we are paying close attention to the particular hurdles that our early-career members may be facing in these challenging times for science, and we will work to facilitate their attendance at our upcoming annual meeting. As promised, the Presidential Plenary session will feature outstanding scientists conducting research on the developmental origins of CNS diseases, as well as on pathways for early intervention and prevention. The Program Committee will ensure a diverse and cutting-edge program that covers a wide variety of topics. Further, we will ensure that the program brings together collaborators across academia, industry, and government and highlights the translational value and relevance of all the outstanding work you do.

The annual meeting is where we welcome travel awardees and new members, celebrate the promotion of Associate Members to full membership, and pay tribute to the achievements of our honorific awardees. Now is the time to identify and encourage outstanding scientists to apply for membership, ensuring that the best and brightest in our fields are part of ACNP. We also need

your help in nominating exceptional scientists for awards across all career stages and recognizing the mentoring and advocacy efforts of our colleagues.

As a reminder, our upcoming meeting will again be in January in San Diego, California, the second of three years in which our meetings will be in January rather than December. However, our next meeting will go back to our more typical pattern of starting the meeting on a Sunday and going through Wednesday. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

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 2027 Annual Meeting. Please click here for additional information. Please see below for the upcoming proposal deadlines. The final deadline to submit is June 4th.

Submission of Individual Presenter Abstracts (Panel & Mini-Panel)
DEADLINE: **Tuesday, June 2, 2026**

Submission of Disclosures and Attestations by Study Group Participants:
DEADLINE: **Tuesday, June 2, 2026**

Chairs Review & Finalize Proposed Sessions (Panels, Mini-Panels, and Study Groups)
DEADLINE: **Thursday, June 4, 2026**

Award Nominations: We are now accepting nominations for the 2026 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.

- 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, 2026 (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 **June 30, 2026**. 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 2026, each ACNP Member, Fellow, and Emeritus member can nominate up to two nominations per category as long as one of the candidates in each category is a scientist from a disadvantaged background as defined by the ACNP.

Nomination materials for new Member, Associate Member, and Fellow promotion candidates will be available under the Membership tab on the ACNP website in July.

https://acnp.org/membership/applications-nominations/ Applications will open later this summer with the deadline to submit of September 24, 2026.