



Staci D. Bilbo, Ph.D., ACNP Program Committee Chair

64th Annual ACNP Program

It has been a tremendous honor to chair the Program Committee for this year's meeting. First, I am so grateful to ACNP President Bill Carlezon for entrusting me with this role. Second, huge thanks to the excellent Parthenon Management Group team that keeps the program flowing smoothly year after year. I continue to be impressed and inspired by the deep passion and hard work displayed by the members of the Program Committee, and the larger ACNP membership. Now more than ever, ACNP is and should be a celebration of science. We received a record number of 196 submissions this year, which unfortunately means that we could not accept many excellent proposals. Overall, I feel that the rigor, creativity, excitement, and some challenges of our field in this moment are well represented in the panels, mini-panels, and study groups selected for inclusion.

The meeting will begin with our Presidents Plenary focused on Brain-Body Communication, a.k.a. Psychiatry "*below the neck*". I view this topic as one of the leading edges of psychiatry and neurobiology and am excited to start the meeting this way. Our Distinguished Lecture will focus on another leading-edge topic: *Digital Tools for Phenotyping and Forecasting Across Species*. From submitted proposals we accepted 40 panels, 5 mini-panels, and 7 study groups. As with previous years we did not elicit an RFP for submissions but invited proposals from the broad interests of the membership. Our charge as a committee is to evaluate the science that we receive, with the explicit goal of identifying the highest quality science, with broad representation across topics and speakers. I am confident we achieved that goal.

Last year, I along with the current chair Tracy Bale revised the submission categories substantially, to better reflect the basic and clinical science interests of our society. For instance, this included a new category on Women's Health and a continued focus on Sex as a Biological Variable, which are well represented in our program this year based on submissions. Last year we also introduced a new session called Promising Targets, which seeks to deliver "hot off the press" data from late breaking clinical trials or translational basic research for the first time to our meeting. We are excited to offer this session once again this year. Also new for this year is the opportunity to sign up for lunch with luminaries in our field, those experts in our ranks with deep institutional knowledge of a topic, both its successes and its failures, and an offer to share that knowledge with our membership. Many thanks to Suzanne Haber, chair of the Senior Leaders Advising on Careers (SLAC) Committee for bringing us this suggestion. Please plan to attend what should be an enriching and rewarding event.

Special thanks go to Tracy Bale as outgoing chair, and Tallie Baram as incoming chair for guiding and assisting me through this task. We are excited about the final program which promises to deliver impactful and cutting-edge fundamental and clinical science for our field. We look forward to seeing you in the Bahamas in January!