American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
bulletin

2025 Honorific Award Winners

The 2025 Honorific Awards were presented by Awards Committee chair, Helen Mayberg, M.D. at the 64th ACNP Annual Meeting.

Daniel H. Efron Research Award - Recognizing Outstanding Basic Research Contributions to Neuropsychopharmacology

Recipient – Erin Calipari, Ph.D.
Vanderbilt University



Dr. Calipari is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Pharmacology, Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, and Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and the Director of the Vanderbilt Center for Addiction Research. Dr. Calipari's research aims to address how do neural circuits integrate experiences with positive and negative stimuli to guide future behavior and how is information stored and maintained within specific circuits on a molecular level. Research from Dr. Calipari's lab has challenged conventional dogma of dopamine as a reward signal and has redirected the field towards dopamine as a salience signal. This conceptual shift has significant implications not only for our understanding of the neurobiology of substance use disorders, but also in how to identify effective therapeutic strategies for substance use disorders. Furthermore, Dr. Calipari has made substantial contributions in the area of public outreach and media communication through numerous platforms such as social media, podcasts, and interviews. Dr. Calipari's research has transformed our understanding how dopamine neurotransmission mediates learning, memory, and adaptive behaviors at both the system and molecular level.

Please **click here** to watch the acceptance video by Erin Calipari, Ph.D. for the Daniel H. Efron Research Award.

Please **click here** to watch the nominator video by Eric Nestler, M.D. for the Daniel H. Efron Research Award.

Recipient – Ian Maze, Ph.D.
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



Dr. Maze is a Professor of Neuroscience and Pharmacological Sciences and Director of the Center for Neural Epigenome Engineering at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Maze is a pioneer in the field of molecular neuropharmacology and neuroepigenetics, where he has significantly advanced our understanding of the role of chromatin regulatory processes in neural function and disease. Dr. Maze has received numerous honors for his outstanding contributions to the field, including the Dr. Harold and Golden Lamport Award in Basic Research, the Society for Neuroscience Jacob P. Waletzky Award, and a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. In 2021, Dr. Maze became one of the youngest investigators to be named as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and was recently named as a finalist for the Blavatnik National Awards for Young Scientists. Dr. Maze's work challenges our traditional thinking of how monoaminergic signaling contributes to brain function. In particular, he was among the first to demonstrate that monoaminergic neurotransmitters, such as serotonin and dopamine, post-translationally monoaminylate histone and synaptic proteins, thereby directly regulating gene expression and synaptic plasticity. With numerous publications in top journals, such as Nature and Science, Dr. Maze's research leverages state-of-the-art multidisciplinary approaches to provide critical mechanistic insight into the role of monoaminergic function with broad relevance to basic, translational, and pharmacological research.

Statement from the nominee of the Daniel H. Efron Research Award, Ian Maze, Ph.D.

"I am incredibly honored to be one of the recipients of the 2025 Daniel H. Efron Research Award and would like to express my profound gratitude to the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology for this important recognition. My lab focuses largely on non-canonical roles for evolutionarily ancient and conserved biogenic amines as direct regulators of transcriptional plasticity and cellular signaling within the central nervous system and beyond. While monoaminergic neurotransmission has long been recognized as essential for the development, maintenance, and plasticity of the nervous system, with classical models defining serotonin, dopamine, norepinephrine, and histamine as extracellular messengers acting exclusively through cell-surface receptors, our findings have challenged this view. Emerging evidence from our lab has revealed that biogenic amines also covalently modify proteins—a process termed monoaminylation—to directly influence intracellular signaling cascades and the epigenetic regulation of gene expression. The discovery of these non-canonical monoamine signaling moieties across subcellular compartments thus offers important new insights into brain–body communication and suggests previously underappreciated roles for monoamines in both adaptive and maladaptive brain plasticity. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the mentors who always believed in me and helped to shape my scientific trajectory, as well as to the many incredible postdocs and students over the years who carried out the work. This award

is dedicated to them and is truly a testament to their unwavering dedication, fortitude, and creativity. Thank you for this remarkable honor!"

Please **click here** to watch the nominator video by Paul Kenny, Ph.D. for the Daniel H. Efron Research Award.

Joel Elkes Research Award - Recognizing Outstanding Clinical Contributions to Neuropsychopharmacology

Recipient – Cynthia Rogers, , M.D.
Washington University St. Louis



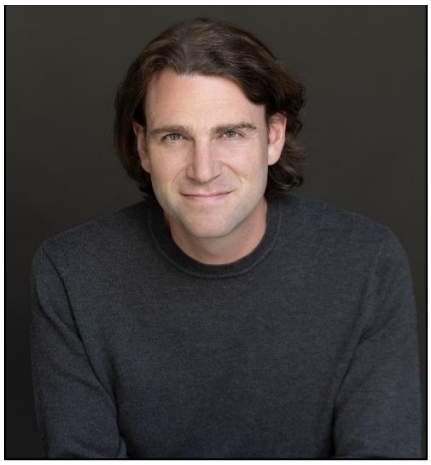
Dr. Rogers is a board-certified child and adult psychiatrist with a specialization in infant and perinatal mental health who received her BA at Harvard University and then went on to earn her MD and complete her general psychiatry residency and child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship at WashU Medicine. Her groundbreaking research has illuminated the early neurobiological and developmental markers of psychiatric risk associated with premature birth and has made important discoveries on fronto-amygdala and cingulo-opercular circuit development as it relates to behavioral inhibition, internalizing symptoms, and difficulties in social competency among children born preterm. Dr. Rogers has also led rigorous empirical investigations using multimodal neonatal neuroimaging and longitudinal study designs in sociodemographically-diverse cohorts to examine how social determinants of health impact critical neurodevelopmental processes. Dr. Rogers's exemplary and distinguished research career has been supported by several large grants—including an NIH MERIT award, a U01, three R01s, and two R34s—as well as other federal, private foundation, and internal institutional grants. Her work has been consistently published in top-tier outlets: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Nature Communications, JAMA Psychiatry, American Journal of Psychiatry, Biological Psychiatry, and Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Dr. Rogers is also serving as Associate Director for the NIH HEALthy Brain and Child Development Study, a major multisite consortium examining how early environments shape brain and behavioral trajectories. Dr. Rogers is the inaugural Co-Executive Director of the Hermann Center for Child and Family Development, a state-of-the-art clinical research center dedicated to improving mental health across the lifespan through family-centered, compassionate care. Through her leadership roles in the Perinatal Behavioral Health Service and NICU Behavioral Health Clinic at WashU Medicine, Dr. Rogers is also deeply engaged in clinical practice. Dr. Rogers has overseen the development of innovative clinical programming including integrative mental health care in pediatric practices, accelerated Dialectical Behavioral Therapy services for adolescent patients, and expansion of clinical services for autism, eating disorders, and other psychiatric conditions. Dr. Rogers has supported the scientific development of trainees

from the undergraduate through junior faculty levels, ensuring that the next generation of developmental scientists and physicians have a strong grounding in how sociocultural factors and social determinants of health can represent neurodevelopmental insults.

Please **click here** to view the acceptance video by Cynthia Rogers, M.D. for the Joel Elkes Research Award.

Please **click here** to view the nominator video by Cynthia Crawford, Ph.D. for the Joel Elkes Research Award.

Recipient – Nolan Williams, M.D.
Stanford University



Dr. Williams, who attained the title Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University and was the Director of the Stanford Brain Stimulation Lab, died on October 8, 2025. Despite his relative youth, he left behind a rich legacy of scientific achievement with direct impact on the lives of patients suffering from depression. Dr. Williams dedicated his career to understanding the brain mechanisms underlying treatment resistant depression and developing new treatments with greater efficacy and a more rapid onset of action. Dr. Williams' greatest achievement was his development of a personalized, fMRI-guided treatment for depression employing a brain stimulation technology called Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS). While TMS has been approved for depression since 2008, the novel approach developed by Dr. Williams, called the Stanford Accelerated Intelligent Neuromodulation Treatment (SAINT) protocol, combined three innovations pioneered by Dr. Williams: the use of functional magnetic resonance imaging to target the specific part of the brain relevant for each individual patient; the use of a higher "pulse dose" of stimulation; and, most critically, the use of an accelerated schedule of stimulation allowing the full course of treatment to be completed in just five days rather than weeks. On the basis of the body of evidence developed by Dr. Williams, demonstrating high rates of efficacy, low side effects, and neuroimaging evidence of reversal of brain signatures of depression, the SAINT treatment received FDA clearance and reimbursement by Medicare. This represents the first FDA clearance for a rapid-acting neuromodulation approach within psychiatry, and the first clearance of functional MRI for any psychiatric diagnosis. In the last few years, Dr. Williams was expanding his portfolio of research to cover additional, rapid-acting treatments for serious neuropsychiatric disorders. He performed critical research examining the mechanism of action of ketamine, which has received increasing attention as an effective approach to treatment-resistant depression. He also recently published a groundbreaking study of ibogaine, a naturally occurring, plant-based, psychedelic compound extracted from the roots of an African plant, as a treatment for neuropsychiatric symptoms and cognitive impairments in Special Operations Forces veterans with traumatic brain injury (TBI). In addition to his legacy of scientific innovation that holds the potential to benefit a vast number of people suffering from depression, Dr. Williams is survived by his wife and two children. The ACNP dedicates this year's Joel Elkes Research award to Dr. Williams' legacy, which will impact our field and our patients for many decades to come.

Please **click here** to view the nominator video by Alan Schatzberg, M.D., for the Joel Elkes Research Award.

Eva King Killam Research Award - Recognizing Outstanding Translational Research Contributions to Neuropsychopharmacology that Focus on Translating Advances from Basic Science to Human Investigations.

Recipient – Michael Gandal, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania



Dr. Gandal, the William & Noreen Hetznecker Associate Professor in Psychiatry at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, is internationally recognized for performing large-scale, comprehensive next-generation genomic sequencing studies of postmortem brain tissue, in order to understand the molecular genetic basis of serious psychiatric disorders. His groundbreaking work has revealed a critical new insight, fundamentally reshaping our understanding of psychiatric genetics: psychiatric genetic risk operates not just through changes in the overall level of gene expression but also through "splicing" alterations, which affect how the various subparts of a gene are differentially expressed. Over the past decade, Dr. Gandal has consistently pushed the boundaries of our knowledge of how genes provide more than just a static "blueprint" but are a dynamically active system shaping healthy or atypical brain development. Working at the cutting edge, his research program has systematically developed novel methods and generated foundational resources for the neuroscientific community, arming the entire field with the conceptual framework and practical tools to explore a vast, previously hidden landscape of disease biology. Perhaps most importantly, Dr. Gandal consistently seeks to apply this new knowledge to the daunting challenge of developing novel treatments for serious psychiatric disorders. While recent genetic studies in psychiatry have uncovered a plethora of genetic associations to risk for illness, translating these findings into actionable biological targets has remained challenging. In just the last few years, Dr. Gandal's research has led to two such breakthroughs: the identification of protein folding dysfunction as a novel therapeutic target in autism; and the recognition that complement pathway dysregulation in schizophrenia are manifest in synaptic abnormalities in prefrontal cortex in schizophrenia. Thus, Dr. Gandal's genomic discoveries are not just academic exercises but also hypothesis-generating findings that directly inform the next wave of clinical science.

Please **click here** to watch the acceptance video by Michael Gandal, M.D., Ph.D. for the Eva King Killam Research Award.

Please **click here** to watch the nominator video by Steve Siegel, M.D., Ph.D. for the Eva King Killam Research Award.

Barbara Fish Memorial Award - Recognizing an ACNP Member who has made an Outstanding Contribution to Basic, Translational, or Clinical Neuroscience

Recipient – Harriet de Wit, Ph.D.
University of Chicago



Dr. de Wit has had a transformative impact on the field of human psychopharmacology. At a time when controlled human studies of psychoactive drugs were rare, she established rigorous experimental paradigms that parallel preclinical models and opened new avenues for translational research. Her laboratory was the first to demonstrate in humans several phenomena central to addiction science — including drug-induced reinstatement (priming), conditioned place preference, and incubation of craving. These findings validated key animal models and strengthened the translational bridge between laboratory research and clinical relevance. Her work has spanned a remarkable breadth of psychoactive compounds, including licit substances such as alcohol, nicotine, and caffeine; prescription drugs such as amphetamines and benzodiazepines; and illicit compounds such as cannabis, MDMA, and LSD. Her studies have characterized how these drugs influence impulsivity, reward processing, social behavior, and emotional regulation. In recent years, her carefully controlled, placebo-blinded studies of MDMA and LSD microdosing provided some of the earliest scientific evidence shaping the clinical and public discourse around psychedelic-assisted therapies. Dr. de Wit's scientific productivity and impact are extraordinary. She has authored more than 450 publications, with an h-index of 112 and more than 48,000 citations, ranking among the top scientists worldwide. She has been continuously funded by NIH for more than 40 years, including a 42-year NIDA R01 grant investigating determinants of drug preference in humans — among the longest continuously funded grants in the College's history.

In addition to her scholarship, Dr. de Wit has been an exemplary mentor and leader. She has trained over 30 postdoctoral fellows and dozens of graduate and undergraduate students, many of whom now direct their own independent laboratories.

Statement from the nominee of the Barbara Fish Memorial Award, Harriet de Wit, Ph.D.

"I am deeply honored to receive the Barbara Fish Memorial Award from ACNP. I thank the ACNP Awards Committee for selecting me. I am especially grateful for my dedicated nominators Cece Hillard and Marina Wolf, with support from Abe Palmer and Leah Mayo. I greatly appreciate their effort and support, and I am truly honored to receive their recognition.

It is especially meaningful to receive this award from the ACNP, which has been central to my scientific career. I have attended ACNP annual meetings almost every year since 1992, and I have enjoyed the wonderful academic community it has provided over all these years. The meetings provide a stimulating intellectual environment, and a meaningful social community to meet friends and colleagues every December. I wonder if Barbara Fish had any idea, as a founding member of ACNP in 1961, of the enduring institution she helped to create. Aside from her exceptional credentials as a child psychiatrist and researcher in the developmental aspects of schizophrenia, Dr. Fish helped to create this robust and unique scientific society that we now enjoy.

I owe thanks and acknowledgement to the many people who facilitated my career. This includes my humble beginnings as a research assistant with Jeffrey Grey in Oxford, England, followed by my exceptional graduate training in psychology at Concordia University in Montreal, first with Roy Wise and then, for my PhD research, with Jane Stewart. Then, I came to the University of Chicago for post-doctoral work with Chris-Ellyn Johanson in 1981, where I made the transition from research with laboratory animals to human participants. Chris-Ellyn and her colleagues Bob Schuster, Marian Fischman and Uhle Uhlenhuth, introduced me to the wonderful ACNP community. Through my four decades as a faculty member at the University of Chicago I have had the great pleasure to work with many creative and stimulating trainees, with whom I shared the satisfying work of developing scientific ideas and solving problems. I thank them, as well.

This honor is especially meaningful to me as I approach the bittersweet transition to the end of my scientific career in psychopharmacology."

Please **click here** to watch the nominator video by Abraham Palmer, Ph.D. for the Barbara Fish Memorial Award.

Julius Axelrod Mentorship Award - Recognizes Outstanding Contributions to Neuropsychopharmacology by Mentoring and Developing Young Scientists into Leaders in the Field.

Recipient – Sophia Vinogradov, M.D.
University of Minnesota



Dr. Sophia Vinogradov is the Donald W. Hastings Endowed Chair in Psychiatry and the Department Head of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at the University of Minnesota Medical School. She completed residency training in psychiatry at Stanford University School of

Medicine as well as a Psychiatric Neurosciences Research Fellowship at the Palo Alto VA Medical Center and Stanford University. Dr. Vinogradov's research leverages EEG, and fMRI methods to study the effects of neuroscience-informed cognitive training on behavioral and neural plasticity in patients with psychosis spectrum illness. Her body of work is complemented by more than 250 publications and strong history of scientific leadership on multiple scientific review committees, such as the NIMH Intramural Research Program, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto, and the Medical Research Council Centre for Neurodevelopmental Disorders at King's College London. Dr. Vinogradov's outstanding track record in mentorship is evident by her direct, personal mentorship of numerous students, postdoctoral fellows, and early career faculty as well as her contributions to institutional and national training infrastructures. Over the course of her career, Dr. Vinogradov has mentored 9 predoctoral students, 13 postdoctoral scholars and residents, and many more junior and mid-career faculty members. The success of her mentees, who have served as national experts in their respective research domains, is a testament to the enduring impact of Dr. Vinogradov's mentorship. In addition to her individualized approach to personal mentorship, she serves as a mentor on numerous institutional training grants and was previously the Contact PI for the K12 Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health program, a prestigious initiative aimed at advancing women's health and supporting junior investigators. Furthermore, as Dr. Vinogradov has initiated innovative programs to support young scholars, such as the resilience program for University of Minnesota BA-MD Scholars, which provides a pathway to medical school for students from underserved or disadvantaged backgrounds. For her dedication to the training and development of the next generation of scientists, she has won numerous teaching awards and honors.

Please **click here** to view the acceptance video by Sophia Vinogradov, M.D. for the Julius Axelrod Mentorship Award.

Please **click here** to view the nominator video by Sade Spencer, Ph.D. for the Julius Axelrod Mentorship Award.

Dolores Shockley Advancement Award – Recognizes an Individual and/or Program that has had outstanding success promoting individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds within the fields of basic, clinical, or translational neuroscience

Recipient – Carlos Bolanos Guzman, Ph.D.
Texas A&M University



Dr. Bolaños-Guzmán earned BA and MA degrees from California State University, San Bernardino, followed by a PhD at Northeastern University. After postdoctoral fellowships at Yale University and University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, he began his own research program, first at Florida State University, and then at Texas A&M University. He is currently a Professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and the Institute for Neuroscience, where his research focuses on the neurobiological and behavioral consequences of stress and substance use. Throughout his career, Dr. Bolaños-Guzmán has been a strong advocate for trainees from backgrounds underrepresented in science. Within ACNP, he previously chaired the Minority Task Force and he is an active member of the Hispanic and Latin American Sub-Committee, through which he has brought new voices and perspectives into the scientific community. He has further held leadership roles in organizations such as the National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse and the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, in which he has provided national platforms for Hispanic scientists to present research, network, and advance their careers. At Florida State University, he received the Nancy Marcus Professorship which supports and recognizes a superior researcher at FSU with a demonstrated extraordinary commitment to students from groups underrepresented in math and science and attract them to and advance their career in these fields. In his position at Texas A&M University as the Assistant Provost for Diversity, he established and directed the Accountability, Climate, Equity, and Scholarship (ACES) Fellows Program and the ADVANCE Scholars Program, creating structured pathways for supporting scholars from disadvantaged groups. These efforts and others, such as publications on the perspectives of underrepresented minorities in science, have been recognized with awards that include an endowed professorship honoring his extraordinary commitment to students from groups underrepresented in math and science. In addition to his leadership activities at the institutional and national levels, Dr. Bolaños-Guzmán is noted for his compassionate yet rigorous approach to individual mentoring. His mentees note his strong and career-spanning dedication to ensuring their scientific and professional success, as indicated not only by the number of his former trainees now in academic research positions, but also their commitment to continue his legacy of advocacy for individuals from all backgrounds to succeed in science.

Statement from the nominee of the Dolores Shockley Advancement Award, Carlos Bolanos Guzman, Ph.D.

"I am honored to receive the Dolores Shockley Advancement Award and thank the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology for this awesome and unexpected recognition. I am humbled by the fact that there are so many outstanding ACNP members who work diligently advising, mentoring, and promoting individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds as the future generation of scientists. I am deeply grateful to the ACNP mentors who took the time to mentor me, and continue to do so! I am grateful to those that nominated me, and to my trainees which hard work and dedication make receiving this honor possible. Thank you, ACNP for your unwavering commitment to providing a bigger umbrella to individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds."

Please **click here** to view the nominator video by Millie Rincón-Cortés, Ph.D. for the Dolores Shockley Advancement Award.

Recipient – Jared Young, Ph.D.
University of California at San Diego



Dr. Young earned his BSc in Psychology and Biology from University of Paisley, before earning his PhD from University of Edinburgh. This was followed by a post-doctoral fellowship at University of California, San Diego (UCSD), where he has remained and is now Professor in Residence in the Department of Psychiatry. At UCSD, Dr. Young leads a large research team focused on preclinical and translational psychopharmacology of psychiatric conditions including substance use disorders, bipolar disorder, and depression. Throughout his career, Dr. Young has founded and/or led numerous initiatives to support and raise the profile of LGBTQIA2S+ scientists. Within ACNP, he was a member and ultimately chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and he helped create the LGBTQIA2S+ subcommittee of ACNP. His activities in the College also include regularly hosting LGBTQIA2S+ networking sessions at the Annual Meeting, and chairing a LGBTQIA2S+ focused panel and study group, the outcomes of the latter of which were published in *Neuropsychopharmacology*. His efforts to support and promote LGBTQIA2S+ scientists, however, extend well beyond ACNP. In his department at UCSD, he was currently the co-chair of the Equity Diversity and Inclusion Council, and he is chair of the LGBTQIA2S+ subcommittee. His work in this area and continuous support for trainees of all backgrounds earned him his department's Champion of Diversity award in 2025. Dr. Young also contacts LGBTQIA2S+ scientists individually before conferences he attends regularly (most notably IBNS and SOBP) to ensure they feel safe, welcome, and supported, and he regularly hosts networking sessions to bring the community together. As a consequence of these efforts and others, he was invited to be the inaugural Pride Grand Rounds speaker at Columbia University, where he described both his advocacy work and his research. In addition to his work with the LGBTQIA2S+ community, Dr. Young has been a tireless advocate for trainees of all backgrounds. He has mentored dozens of trainees in his laboratory, from postdoctoral fellows to undergraduates, and he teaches several courses within the neuroscience graduate program at UCSD. He also created a formal mentoring program for trainees attending the IBNS meeting (for which he obtained NIH support) when he was president of this society. His colleagues and trainees describe him as an inspiring leader and an empathic listener, whose efforts for both individuals in his lab and the field as a whole have improved the professional and social environment for countless scientists.

Please **click here** to view the acceptance video by Jared Young, Ph.D. for the Dolores Shockley Advancement Award.

Please **click here** to view the nominator video by Kale Edmiston, Ph.D. for the Dolores Shockley Advancement Award.

Advocacy Award – Recognizes an Individual and/or Program who has had outstanding success alleviating the gender imbalance within the field of brain and behavior disorders.

Recipient – Gwenn Smith, Ph.D.
John Hopkins University



Dr. Gwenn Smith is Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Radiology and Radiological Sciences. She is s a Fellow of the ACNP. Dr. Smith earned her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. She then completed her Ph.D. in Neuropsychology at the City University of New York. After her doctoral degree, she undertook post-doctoral training at the Aging and Dementia Research Center in the Department of Psychiatry at New York University, and at the PET (positron emission tomography) Program at Brookhaven National Laboratory. Before joining Johns Hopkins in 2008, she held faculty positions at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and at other institutions including NYU and the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Smith is a highly accomplished molecular imaging researcher whose research focuses on the application of in-vivo molecular imaging, especially PET imaging techniques, to understand the neurochemical and neuropathologic mechanisms of late-life cognitive decline and mood disorders, and neurodegenerative diseases. Some of her key contributions include using PET imaging to study neurotransmitters systems (e.g., serotonin, dopamine, and cholinergic systems) and how their degeneration relates to cognitive decline, mild cognitive impairment (MCI), and Alzheimer's disease. Her neuroimaging research bridges basic neuroscience (neurochemistry, neuropathology) and geriatric neuropsychiatry (late-life depression, MCI and AD) to identify early biomarkers of disease and potential mechanisms and biomarkers of treatment response. Dr. Smith has been continuously funded for her research by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since the 1990s. As a senior scientist and academic leader, she has mentored numerous trainees and has helped shape the field of geriatric neuropsychiatry and molecular imaging. Her advocacy is a central part of her career, focused on alleviating gender imbalance in neuropsychopharmacology and supporting women and underrepresented minorities (URM) in science. Dr. Smith has mentored over 100 researchers, providing long-term support, helping mentees with grant writing, promotion packages, and career transitions. She has been a core faculty member and leader in training initiatives, such as the NIMH-funded R25 programs for geriatric mental health, including the Advanced Research Institute (ARI) and the Research Career Institute in Mental Health of Aging (CIMA). Through these programs, she has mentored numerous junior faculty, with a high success rate for them achieving independent NIH funding and academic promotion. Dr. Smith has worked to create systemic changes to reduce gender bias at the institutions where she has served on the faculty. In her roles within professional organizations and scientific journals, she has invited women and LGBTQ+ speakers to ensure gender balance in scientific forums. Her efforts have made a generational impact on the field, empowering both female and male researchers to champion gender equity.

Please **click here** to view the acceptance video by Gwenn Smith, Ph.D. for the Advocacy Award.

Please **click here** to view the nominator video by Romina Mizrahi, M.D., Ph.D for the Advocacy Award.

Paul Hoch Distinguished Service Award - Presented to a Member who has made Unusually Significant Contributions to the College. The Emphasis of this Award is on Service to the College - Not for Teaching, Clinical, or Research Accomplishment.

Recipient – Linda Brady, Ph.D.
National Institute of Mental Health



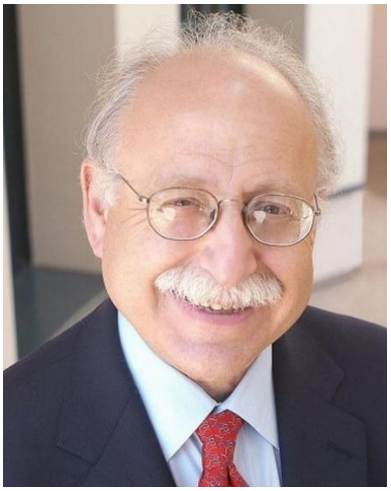
Dr. Brady is currently the Director of the Division of Neuroscience and Basic Behavioral Science at the NIH National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), where she leads the scientific, programmatic, and administrative basic neuroscience portfolio focused on translating the basic understanding of mental illnesses into better treatments. Since 1995, she has directed extramural programs in neuropharmacology, drug discovery, and clinical therapeutics and organized Consortia focused on ways to accelerate the development and application of radiotracers in clinical research. She has contributed significant leadership guidance to the National Cooperative Drug/Device Discovery/Development Groups for the Treatment of Mental Disorders and First in Human and Early-Stage Clinical Trials of Novel Investigational Drugs or Devices for Psychiatric Disorders initiatives. Dr. Brady also co-leads the Neuroscience Steering Committee of the Biomarkers Consortium, a public-private research partnership of the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH) that focuses on discovery, development, and qualification of biological markers to support drug development, preventive medicine, and medical diagnostics. She is also an alternate member of the National Academies Forum on Neuroscience and Nervous System Disorders and a member of the Forum on Drug Discovery, Development, and Translation. Throughout her career, Dr. Brady has been awarded the prestigious NIH Director's Award an impressive eight times. Her most recent receipt of a NIH Director's Award was in 2023 for the exceptional collaboration and leadership of the Accelerating Medicines Partnership® Schizophrenia program to generate biological and clinical tools to transform the development and testing of new treatments for individuals who are at risk for developing schizophrenia. In 2020, she also received the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Rona and Ken Purdy Award for Distinguished Service. Thus, the positive impact of her work has been widespread and gone beyond enhancing NIH-funded research programs and public-private partnerships by extending to affect those in the general community with her efforts raising public

awareness, reducing stigma and improving the lives of people with mental illness and their families.

Please **click here** to view the acceptance video by Linda Brady, Ph.D. for the Paul Hoch Award.

Please **click here** to view the nominator video by Tallie Z. Baram, M.D., Ph.D.

Recipient – Alan Schatzberg, M.D.
Standford University



Dr. Schatzberg is the Kenneth T. Norris Jr., Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Stanford School of Medicine and the Director of the Stanford Mood Disorders Center. He completed his undergraduate Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree at New York University in 1965. He then earned his M.D. from NYU School of Medicine in 1968. After his residency/fellowship, Dr. Schatzberg joined the faculty of Harvard Medical School and the clinical staff of McLean Hospital in 1974. He served as co-Director of the Affective Disorders Program at McLean Hospital, Director of the Depression Research, Clinical Director of the Massachusetts Mental Health Center and Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard. In 1991, Schatzberg moved to the Stanford School of Medicine, where he was appointed the Kenneth T. Norris, Jr. Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Chair of the Department. He served as Chair of the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at Stanford Medical School from 1991 until 2010. Alan F. Schatzberg is one of the foremost figures in modern psychiatry, combining leadership, teaching, and rigorous research in biology and treatment of mood disorders. He is widely recognized for his work in the biology and psychopharmacology of depressive disorders. His research has significantly contributed to understanding and treating depression, including work on the role of the HPA axis and cortisol in major depression, investigating norepinephrine-systems in depression and subtyping depressive disorders and advancing understanding pioneering therapeutic strategies using glucocorticoid antagonists, and uncovering the antidepressant effects of ketamine, demonstrating its dependence on the mu-opioid receptor system. He has also contributed to the development of treatments for resistant depression and identified neurophysiological subtypes of depression. He has over 700 peer-reviewed papers and abstracts and has authored several key textbooks in psychiatry and psychiatric pharmacology, including Manual of Clinical Psychopharmacology (now in its 10th edition) and co-editing Textbook of Psychopharmacology (in its 6th edition). He also has been deeply involved in training the next generation of physician-scientists through fellowships and career-development programs. He has received several major accolades including election to the National Academy of Medicine in 2003, the Kraepelin Gold Medal from the Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry in 2014, the Society of Biological Psychiatry Gold Medal in 2015, Brain & Behavior Research Foundation (formerly NARSAD) Falcone Award for outstanding achievement in affective

disorders research and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society of Psychoneuroendocrinology in 2015. He received the ACNP Julius Axelrod Mentorship Award in 2017 and the Rhoda and Bernard Sarnat International Prize in Mental Health in 2025 for his pioneering research. He is a past president of the American Psychiatric Association, the ACNP, and the Society of Biological Psychiatry. Dr. Schatzberg's roles in ACNP spanned from committee membership in the 1980s through leadership in the 1990s and early 2000s. He influenced governance (Council, President), program content notably adding a Hot Topics session to the Annual Meeting and advancing the start day to allow for less expensive travel options (Program Committee; Neuropsychopharmacology Associate Editorship), awards/mentorship (Honorific Awards Committee), and membership/expertise expansion. Dr. Schatzberg was instrumental in the development of the current ACNP Executive Office by establishing the first Executive Director position which Ronnie Wilkins initially held. His contributions map directly onto ACNP's goals: research (cross-disciplinary communication) and education (encouraging young scientists). By helping to set award standards and mentoring individuals, he helped cultivate the next generation of neuropsychopharmacology researchers — a core educational objective of ACNP. Through his roles at Stanford, APA, ACNP, and others, he has shaped academic psychiatry and its intersection with neuroscience and psychopharmacology.

Please **click here** to view the acceptance video by Alan Schatzberg, M.D. for the Paul Hoch Award.

Please **click here** to view the nominator video by David Braff, M.D. for the Paul Hoch Award.

Media Award - Recognizes Major Contributions to the Education of the Public about Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Research and the Positive Impact of Research on Treatment.

Recipient – Jaye Watson
Your Fantastic Mind



Jaye Watson's contributions have dramatically improved public understanding toward thoughtful and scientifically informed perspectives at a critical time when mental health care, brain-science funding, and public outreach programs are increasingly being scrutinized. Her work and Your Fantastic Mind team exemplify the highest standards of non-partisan journalism and rigorous communication of medical and mental-health science. Ms. Watson excels at explaining complex scientific concepts ranging from mental health topics including COVID-19 and adolescent mental health to new scientific discoveries with clarity and emotional resonance. Your Fantastic Mind consistently provides a platform for rigorous evidence-based communication on a wide

range of neuroscience topics. Your Fantastic Mind is an Emmy Award-winning Public Broadcast Station television show produced by Emory Brain Health in partnership with Georgia Public Broadcasting. In addition to winning 15 Emmy Awards for their work, Ms. Jaye Watson has also received the Edward R. Murrow Award twice for best writing for a large television market. Recent award-winning episodes of Your Fantastic Mind include coverage on "Deep Brain Stimulation for Depression" and "A Ticking Timebomb – Hemorrhagic Stroke." Additional episodes cover a wide-range of neuroscience topics such as "New Frontiers in Pain Relief," "Unlocking the Mind," and "Body, Brain, and Behavior interactions." This nationally-syndicated program highlights patient stories combined with cutting-edge research and clinical advances in brain science. Watson co-produces the series alongside her husband, Kenny Hamilton, himself an Emmy and Edward R. Murrow Award-winning journalist. In summary, Jaye Watson and the Your Fantastic Mind team exemplifies the nature of the ACNP Media Award by providing a voice and platform for the dissemination of scientifically accurate information on mental illness, brain-mind interactions, pharmacological and behavioral treatment approaches for mental health disorders, and the foundational scientific knowledge supporting public education about brain health and neuroscience.

Please **click here** to view the acceptance video by Jaye Watson for the Media Award.

Please **click here** to view the nominator video by Shelia Rauch, Ph.D. for the Media Award.

Public Service Award - Recognizes Substantial Contributions to Affect Public Policies or other Activities Related to Improving the Health of the Public with an Emphasis on Patients with Brain Diseases

Recipient – Congressman Morgan Luttrell
Representing Texas' 8th Congressional District



Rep. Luttrell has been recognized for his extraordinary leadership in advancing mental health care and evidence-based innovation for veterans and the broader public. A decorated combat veteran and member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Rep. Luttrell has been a driving force behind national efforts to expand access to effective treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and substance use disorders. Drawing on his own journey of recovery from PTSD, Rep. Luttrell has championed for the destigmatization of mental illness and the integration of novel, scientifically informed therapies into the continuum of care for veterans. Rep. Luttrell's legislative initiatives reflect a deep commitment to improving the lives of veterans and their families. He has reintroduced the bipartisan Service Dogs Assisting Veterans Act, a five-year, $50-million grant program to support nonprofit organizations that train and provide service dogs to veterans suffering from PTSD and traumatic brain injuries. Beyond legislative action, his advocacy has brought together scientists, clinicians, policymakers, and veteran organizations to promote responsible exploration of psychedelic-assisted interventions

and other innovative approaches to mental health treatment. The ACNP recognizes Rep. Luttrell for his courage in sharing his lived experience with PTSD, his dedication to bridging science and policy, and his steadfast pursuit of better care for veterans.

Please **click here** to view the Public Service Award nominator video by Fernanda Laezza, M.D., Ph.D.