



2023 Honorific Award Winners

The 2023 Honorific Awards were presented by Awards Committee chair, Dr. Carlos Zarate at the 62nd ACNP Annual Meeting.

Daniel H. Efron Research Award - recognizing outstanding basic research contributions to neuropsychopharmacology.

Recipients – Keri Martinowich, Ph.D.

Lieber Institute for Brain Development



Dr. Martinowich is currently a Lead Investigator at the Lieber Institute for Brain Development (LIBD) and Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD. Since joining LIBD over a decade ago, Dr. Martinowich has developed a prolific research program that takes an innovative, cross-species approach to study how programs of gene expression in defined cell populations contribute to circuit function and the control of behaviors relevant to psychiatric, neurodevelopmental, and neurodegenerative disorders. In addition to the success of her research program, she is an exemplary mentor to students and young investigators and is the Head of Education & Training Programs for the LIBD. Dr. Martinowich's lab has made major advances in the understanding how changes in neural activity downstream of neurotrophin signaling contribute to the function of brain circuits that mediate complex behaviors. This fundamental body of work has provided profound insight into the design of cell type- and circuit-specific strategies for manipulation of brain-derived neurotrophic factor and its downstream signal transduction pathways.

Please [click here](#) to watch the acceptance video by Dr. Keri Martinowich for the Daniel H. Efron Research Award.

Please [click here](#) to watch the nominator video by Daniel Weinberger, M.D. for the Daniel H. Efron Research Award.

Recipients – Vikaas Sohal, M.D., Ph.D.

University of California – San Francisco



Dr. Sohal is Professor and the Deputy Vice Chair of the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco, where he established his independent laboratory in 2010. Dr. Sohal has pioneered new ways to study complex patterns of cortical and limbic circuit activity then applied them to pressing research questions relevant to neuropsychiatric disorders. His outstanding scientific contributions have been recognized by many foundations and research societies, including receipt of a Memory and Cognitive Disorders Award from the McKnight Foundation in 2018 and the A.E. Bennett Basic Science research award from the Society of Biological Psychiatry in 2020. Drawing on his background in mathematics and electrophysiology, Dr. Sohal's work combines computational, electrophysiological, and optogenetic approaches to contribute fundamental insights into emergent patterns of limbic circuit activity and their role in normal and pathological aspects of cognition and emotion. Using new technologies based on genetically encoded voltage indicators, his lab resolved a major controversy about the functional significance of gamma oscillations by establishing that the synchronization of gamma-frequency activity across brain regions, not just locally, contributes to normal cognition. They also established that these gamma oscillations may be targeted to remediate cognitive deficits that are associated with schizophrenia. The Sohal lab further discovered long-range inhibitory projection neurons originating from the prefrontal cortex that powerfully regulate downstream regions like hippocampus, as well as novel mechanism of dopamine 2 receptor signaling that are specific to the prefrontal cortex, both of which have broad implications for neuropsychopharmacology.

Please [click here](#) to watch the acceptance video by Dr. Vikaas Sohal for the Daniel H. Efron Research Award.

Joel Elkes Research Award - recognizing outstanding clinical contributions to neuropsychopharmacology.

Recipient – James Murrough, M.D., Ph.D.

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



Dr. Murrough is a Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, and Director of the Depression and Anxiety Center for Discovery and Treatment at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. He is also a Research Psychiatrist within the VISN 2 Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Centers (MIRECC) at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx. Broadly, Dr. Murrough's program of research utilizes molecular, neuroimaging, and experimental therapeutics approaches aimed at elucidating the fundamental mechanisms underlying stress related disorders in humans, including major depressive disorder (MDD), posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and anxiety disorders. The overall goal of his research is to advance the treatment of stress-related disorders through an enhanced understanding of disease pathogenesis and therapeutic mechanisms of action. Dr. Murrough's contributions to the field of psychiatric neuroscience are rare, exerting a large and sustained scientific and clinical impact in a strikingly brief period of time. One major contribution has been in advancing knowledge concerning the clinical effects and mechanisms of action of the glutamate N-methyl-D aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonist ketamine in patients with treatment-resistant depression (TRD). Dr. Murrough led the first study of durability of antidepressant response following repeated dose intravenous ketamine in TRD, the first study demonstrating the antidepressant potential of ketamine delivered via an intranasal route, and the first study of ketamine for suicidal thinking. Dr. Murrough is described as a gifted teacher of neuropsychopharmacology and biological psychiatry, and a beloved mentor to countless trainees and junior faculty.

Please [click here](#) to watch the acceptance video by Dr. James Murrough for the Joel Elkes Research Award.

Please [click here](#) to watch the nominator video by Eric Nestler, M.D., Ph.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 – Conor Liston, M.D., Ph.D.

Weill Cornell Medical College



Dr. Liston is a Professor of Neuroscience and Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry and Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute at Weill Cornell Medicine. His translational versatility began early in his scientific career. As a graduate student, Dr. Liston completed a series of innovative and rigorous studies exploring the neural systems underlying stress in both human and animal model systems under the tutelage of Drs. B.J. Casey and Bruce McEwen. After his psychiatry residency and outstanding postdoctoral training at both Stanford University and Weill Cornell Medicine, Dr. Liston joined the faculty at Weill Cornell and immediately embarked upon a series of remarkable endeavors aimed at unraveling the connections between stress, cognition, depression, and their neural substrates. His work has been multifaceted and has focused on defining the mechanisms by which prefrontal cortical circuits support learning, memory, and motivation, and how these functions are disrupted in depression, OCD, and other neuropsychiatric disorders, which most commonly emerge during the transition from adolescence to young adulthood. Dr. Liston's research team integrates optogenetic tools, two-photon calcium imaging, functional MRI, and concurrent TMS to record and manipulate the activity of specific neural circuits and cell types in vivo and to investigate how developmental changes in synaptic remodeling shape their function across the life span. Notably, Dr. Liston and his trainees identified the prefrontal cortex as playing a key role in the dynamic computations that are necessary for adaptive decision making and have demonstrated how stress weakens and ketamine enhances synaptic computations.

Please [click here](#) to watch the acceptance video by Dr. Conor Liston for the Eva King Killam Research Award.

Please [click here](#) to watch the nominator video by Joshua Gordon, 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.

Recipients – Suzanne Haber, Ph.D.

University of Rochester



Dr. Haber is a Professor in the Departments of Pharmacology and Physiology, Brain and Cognitive Science, Neuroscience, and Psychiatry at the University of Rochester, and Visiting Scientist at McLean Hospital, Harvard Medical school. Dr. Haber's work centers on the neural networks that underlie reward and decision-making, the development of goal directed behaviors, and habit formation, behaviors that require integrating across reward, cognitive and motor control circuits. Through her career, Dr. Haber has focused on where these network interactions may occur, demonstrating specific brain locations that are uniquely positioned to integrate information across functional domains. Identifying these areas are particularly important for understanding network dysfunctions that underlie abnormalities in psychiatric disorders. A second focus is to delineate the organization of white matter bundles, which have been shown to be abnormal in several diseases and are therapeutic targets for those diseases. Her laboratory combines state of the art anatomical techniques with computer modeling, coupled with diffusion MRI and resting state MRI to link the precision of anatomical studies with the indirect imaging methods used in humans circuitry studies. These translational approaches are designed to answer key questions: how well do imaging studies reflect monosynaptic connectivity and how can they be used to better interpret changes in circuits related to mental health disorders? The studies have played an important role in evaluating connections identified in imaging studies and for evaluating electrode placements for deep brain stimulation. She has also won numerous awards for her research, including the NARSAD Distinguished Investigator Award, the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation Investigator Award, the NIMH Merit Award, and the NIH Research Career Development Award.

Please [click here](#) to watch the acceptance video by Dr. Suzanne Haber for the Barbara Fish Memorial Award.

Recipients – Helen Mayberg, M.D.
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



Dr. Helen Mayberg is Professor of Neurology, Neurosurgery, Psychiatry and Neuroscience, and the Mount Sinai Professor in Neurotherapeutics at the Icahn School of Medicine where she serves as Founding Director of the Nash Family Center for Advanced Circuit Therapeutics. Over the 30-plus year course of her career, Dr. Mayberg, a neurologist with training in neuroimaging, has studied the human neural systems mediating mood and emotion with her primary focus of research being major depression and its recovery. In documenting this work, she has co-authored or authored 282 peer-reviewed articles, many published in top-tier psychiatry and neurology, neuroimaging and basic science journals including *Neuron*, *J of Neuroscience*, *J Nuclear Medicine*, *Human Brain Mapping*, *Neuroimage*, *Cerebral Cortex*, *JAMA Psychiatry*, *JAMA Neurology*, *American Journal of Psychiatry*, *Molecular Psychiatry*, *Biological Psychiatry*, *Neuropsychopharmacology*, and most recently, *Nature*. Her research has been cited > 68,000 times and her current Google Scholar H-Index is 110. In parallel with her work as a scientist, Dr. Mayberg has also been a constant and vocal advocate for neuroscience research through her service on multiple advisory committees and councils of scientific societies and government agencies including the Society of Biological Psychiatry, where she previously served as President, the National Advisory Neurological Disorders & Stroke Council, the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation, and the ACNP, where she is the incoming President. Further, Dr. Mayberg has mentored numerous graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and junior faculty across a wide variety of clinical and technical backgrounds (psychology, psychiatry, neurology, neurosurgery, engineering, computer science and basic, affective, and computational neuroscience) on training and research projects. In recognition of the scientific impact of her work and her persistent advocacy for science, she has been elected to Membership in the National Academy of Medicine, the National Academy of Inventors, the National Academy of Science (Section 28), and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She has also been the recipient of numerous awards including the Gold Medal from the Society for Biological Psychiatry and the Distinguished Service Award from the American Psychiatric Association.

Please [click here](#) to watch the acceptance video by Dr. Helen Mayberg for the Barbara Fish Memorial Award.

Please [click here](#) to watch the nominator video by Mary Phillips, M.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 – Marina Wolf, Ph.D.

Oregon Health & Science University



Dr. Marina Wolf is a preeminent neuroscientist who pioneered studies on the role of neuronal plasticity in drug addiction. She is Professor of Behavioral Neuroscience at Oregon Health & Science University. She received her Ph.D. in Pharmacology from Yale in 1986 and trained as a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Cell Biology, Sinai Hospital of Detroit. Her lab has been continuously funded by NIH/NIDA since 1992, which has resulted in 117 primary papers and 30+ invited reviews. She has an impressive track record of training young scientists. In her lab, she has trained 17 Ph.D. students and 15 postdoctoral fellows. She has also mentored junior faculty at many institutions. The quality of her mentorship is evidenced by the number of her trainees who have established their own labs or secured positions in medicine, industry or scientific teaching fields. Dr. Wolf continues to advise former trainees long after they have transitioned from her lab, assisting them with grants, manuscripts, and professional development. She has been a champion of promoting women in science, both within her lab and more broadly. More than half of her former trainees are women, and some have already risen to positions of leadership in their respective fields. With this extraordinary level of dedication to science and mentorship, it is not surprising that she has received several noteworthy honors and awards including the Society for Neuroscience Julius Axelrod Prize, ACNP Paul Hoch Distinguished Service Award, and NIDA Senior Scientist and Mentorship Award. The impact of Dr. Wolf's mentorship is illustrated by the words of a former mentee who writes: "Marina was not only a fantastic mentor during my graduate career, but also has been continuously supportive of my academic career over the past decade. I rank her in the top 1% of mentors who I have known."

Please [click here](#) to view the acceptance video by Dr. Marina Wolf for the Julius Axelrod Mentorship Award.

Please [click here](#) to view the nominator video by Xuan Li, Ph.D. for the Julius Axelrod Mentorship Award.

Dolores Shockley Diversity and Inclusion Advancement Award – recognizes an individual and/or program that has had outstanding success promoting Diversity and Inclusion within the fields of basic, clinical, or translational neuroscience.

Recipient – Bitá Moghaddam, Ph.D.

Oregon Health & Science University



Dr. Moghaddam received her BS in Chemistry from Avila College and her PhD from the university of Kansas. She is currently the Ruth Matarazzo Professor of Behavioral Neuroscience, Oregon Health and Science University. Dr. Moghaddam studies neuronal networks in rodent adolescent models of risk for cognitive and affective disorders. She is a leader in the field of neuropsychopharmacology and use of electrophysiological approaches, including ensemble recordings in behaving animals to understand drug actions. Her work on neural circuits in the developing adolescent brain, mechanisms of actions of ketamine and antipsychotic drugs, and application of computational approaches have contributed to our understanding of how anxiety, addiction, and psychosis may develop. Dr. Moghaddam has received multiple awards including the ACNP's Efron award, CINP's Paul Janssen award, Career Development and MERIT awards from the NIMH and a Fogarty Senior Fellowship award. Dr. Moghaddam has been committed to mentorship and empowerment of underrepresented scientists in her entire career. She has trained over 30 predoctoral and postdoctoral scientists, over 25% of whom have been members of underrepresented groups. Dr. Moghaddam has spearheaded efforts to support and promote scientists through leadership positions in many professional organizations. She was one of the original board members of the ALBA network, an international organization which aims to advance diversity and equity in brain sciences. Dr. Moghaddam fosters a lab environment in which concrete and actionable steps are offered to her mentees to acquire the skills, and access the opportunities, they need to succeed. Dr. Angela Ozburn says "She spends more time with her lab than any other faculty member I've known." "she is consistently fiercely supportive of junior BIPOC scientists, offering her time, guidance, and support.

Please [click here](#) to view the acceptance video by Dr. Bitá Moghaddam for the Dolores Shockley Diversity and Inclusion Advancement Award.

Women's Advocacy Award – recognizes an individual and/or program that has had outstanding success in the promotion and support of women to address the gender imbalance within the field of brain and behavior disorders.

Recipient – Mary Phillips, M.D.

University of Pittsburgh



Dr. Phillips is the Pittsburgh Foundation-Emmerling Endowed Chair in Psychotic Disorders, a Distinguished Professor in Psychiatry and Clinical and Translational Science, and the Director of the Center for Research in Translational and Developmental Affective Neuroscience in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh. She is also a Professor in Bioengineering at the Swanson School of Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. With a career spanning over three decades, Dr. Phillips has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to the training, mentorship, and professional development of women in science. In her own lab, Dr. Phillips has mentored 58 women, many of whom received prestigious grants and fellowships, including multiple NIH K and F awards, NARSAD Young Investigator awards, Klingenstein Foundation awards, and the Association for Women in Science Award. Her mentees have also been recognized by national scientific societies through travel and poster awards from ACNP, Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP), the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the Association for Psychological Science. She has mentored trainees of all career stages, from undergraduate, graduate, and medical students to residents, postdoctoral fellows, early career faculty, and visiting scholars. In addition to mentoring her own trainees, Dr. Phillips has also promoted women scientists on a national level through efforts in both ACNP and SOBP. In the latter, she spearheaded the creation of the SOBP Women's Leadership Group, which hosts a popular series of lunch meetings dedicated to mentoring early career women who aspire to leadership positions.

Please [click here](#) to view the acceptance video by Dr. Mary Phillips for the Women's Advocacy Award.

Please [click here](#) to view the nominator video by David Lewis, M.D. for the Women's 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.

Recipients – Anissa Abi-Dargham, M.D.

Stony Brook University



Dr. Abi-Dargham is Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, SUNY Distinguished Professor, and Associate Vice President for Clinical and Translational Science in the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University. Dr. Abi-Dargham has served the ACNP in multiple, critical roles since becoming a member in 2002. She has attended every annual meeting since 1998, and currently holds the title of Fellow. As a prominent example, Dr. Abi-Dargham has served as Deputy (Handling) Editor of *Neuropsychopharmacology* (NPP) since 2007, spanning the full tenures of 2 Principal Editors. In this role, she has personally handled more than 1,100 new manuscripts (plus their revisions) and provided invaluable insight that has helped keep the journal strong, vibrant, and at the scientific forefront. Most recently, she has served as Co-Volume Editor of the current (2023) issue of *Neuropsychopharmacology Reviews* (NPPR), which focuses on the latest developments in brain circuit function while also setting future priorities for the field. She has also influenced the scientific content of the annual meeting by serving as Co-Chair and then Chair of the Program Committee, overseeing a highly competitive process that ensures quality, diversity, and fairness. Dr. Abi-Dargham has also been at the forefront of improving diversity, equity, and inclusion at the ACNP, serving as an inspirational (and early) leader in this domain. She has shown commitment to increasing representation of women in the College, serving on the Women's Task Force in 2011 and acting as Council liaison to the Task Force from 2018-2019. Along with her formal service, she has also acted as a Mentor for trainees at the annual meeting. She has served on the Nominating Committees for multiple years. Finally (but arguably most notable of all), Dr. Abi-Dargham's service as ACNP President – just the sixth woman to serve in this role – from 2016-2017 was emblematic of her commitment to the mission of strengthening the College as an organization. During her term as President, she took on important issues in areas of education, advocacy for research, diversity, and openness to the international scientific communities.

Please [click here](#) to view the acceptance video by Dr. Anissa Abi-Dargham for the Paul Hoch Award.

Please [click here](#) to view the nominator video by Bill Carlezon, Ph.D. for the Paul Hoch Award.

Please [click here](#) to view the nominator video by Marina Picciotto, Ph.D. for the Paul Hoch Award.

Recipients – David Rubinow, M.D.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Dr. Rubinow is Professor and Chair Emeritus, Department of Psychiatry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he also founded the UNC Women's Mood Disorders Center. Prior to assuming these positions, he was the Clinical Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) from 1987-2006 and the Chief of the Behavioral Endocrinology Branch, NIMH from 1996-2006. His research has focused primarily on the mechanisms underlying reproductive endocrine-related mood disorders and the neurobehavioral effects of gonadal steroids. Dr. Rubinow has published 349 peer-reviewed articles with an h-index of 104 and 36,325 citations. He is the past President of the Society of Biological Psychiatry and the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. His many awards include the William C. Menninger Memorial Award from the American College of Physicians, the Mood Disorders Research Award from the American College of Psychiatrists, and the Gold Medal Award for Research from the Society of Biological Psychiatry. He is a member of National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Rubinow was elected to membership in the ACNP in 1990 and promoted to Fellow in 2000. He has an extensive history of service to the ACNP and remarkably, with two exceptions, served continuously since 1996. He served on the ethics committee (chair in 1997 and 2005), constitution and rules committee (chair in 2006), nominating committee, audit committee (chair in 2018), and as Council liaison to multiple committees (publications, program, public information, nominating, membership, and audit and finance). He was elected to Council in 2007 and subsequently served as President (2010), Secretary (2015), and Treasurer (his current position). Notably, while President, Dr. Rubinow with assistance from President-Elect Dr. Eric Nestler formed the first Women's Task Force, an effort to increase the voice and presence of women at the ACNP. Consistent with that initiative, Dr. Rubinow has served the College by seeking excellent scientists to engage in ACNP and supporting their application to, and membership in, the ACNP, focusing on underrepresented groups and especially championing women in membership and awards.

Please [click here](#) to view the acceptance video by Dr. David Rubinow for the Paul Hoch Award. Please [click here](#) to view the nominator video by Tracy Bale, Ph.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 – Jeffrey A. Borenstein, M.D.

Brain and Behavior Research Foundation



Since 2012, Dr. Borenstein also has served as Editor-in-Chief of *Psychiatric News*, the newspaper of the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Borenstein is a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine and serves as the Chair of the Section of Psychiatry at the Academy. He also has served as the President of the New York State Psychiatric Association. For the last 11 years as the President and CEO of the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation, the largest private funder of mental health research grants, Dr. Borenstein has been the developer of the Emmy-nominated public television program “Healthy Minds,” and serves as host and executive producer of the series. Broadcast via the PBS network nationwide, the show, now in its 8th season, is also available online, and focuses on topics in psychiatry in order to educate the public, reduce stigma, and offer a message of hope. Over the years “Healthy Minds” has won many awards, including 17 “Telly” awards and has been nominated three times for “Emmy” awards. This program performs a service that no other popular communications vehicle in any medium performs. By regularly reaching millions of households, it delivers urgently needed public information messages about mental health and the challenges of living with mental illnesses. It also humanizes the face of both neuropsychiatric research and psychiatry practice because of the intimate and always approachable way Dr. Borenstein interviews his guests. The show is devoid of jargon and makes the subject approachable. Importantly, the program and its host are consistently hopeful and each week Dr. Borenstein opens each episode by saying “with help there is hope”; reminding people that if they can seek help, they stand to benefit. Two websites associated with the “Healthy Minds” program give further information and provide free online access to shows aired to date: <https://www.pbs.org/show/healthy-minds-with-drjeffrey-borenstein/> and <https://bbrfoundation.org/healthy-minds-tv>. Dr. Borenstein’s communications work is exemplary and embodies the nature of the Media Award by providing complete, accurate, and unbiased information to our society about brain diseases.

Please [click here](#) to view the acceptance video by Dr. Jeffrey Borenstein for the Media Award. Please [click here](#) to view the nominator video by Carolyn Rodriguez, M.D., 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 – Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham

Governor of New Mexico



Governor Lujan Grisham has made a remarkable broad and inclusive impact on behavioral health policy through both sponsorship and advocacy at the national legislation to better the lives of Americans living with mental health conditions. She has championed for underrepresented groups such as senior citizens, veterans, individuals living with mental illness and disabilities. National service includes serving as a multi-term State Representative, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. In her role as Chair, she advocated for Hispanic healthcare equity to the federal government. In New Mexico, she has emphasized growing the behavioral health workforce, increasing the number of providers who will accept Medicaid, addressing specific needs for children and adolescents and decreasing the state's suicide rate. Governor Lujan-Grisham sponsored the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act (H.R. 1507), a bipartisan effort that used neuroscience to increase diagnosis of the disease and related dementia. Policy changes that target addiction were spearheaded by Governor Lujan-Grisham. The first, HB 52 (2022), modernized the state of New Mexico's Harm Reduction Act to better serve communities by allowing organizations across the state to distribute drug testing devices. Second, under her leadership, the state has expanded Screening, Brief Intervention to Treatment (SBIRT) to prevent substance use disorders.

Please [click here](#) to view the acceptance video by Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham for the Public Service Award.

Please [click here](#) to view the nominator video by Mauricio Tohen, M.D., Ph.D. for the Public Service Award.