American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
bulletin



Sarah Timm, CAE, CMP-HC, ACNP Executive Director

Creating a Scientific Legacy in the College: Honoring the Past, Investing in the Future

"A society grows great when people plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."
— Greek Proverb

One of the greatest strengths of ACNP is the enduring impact of our members' scientific contributions. Each discovery, mentorship relationship, and collaborative effort shapes the trajectory of our field for generations to come. As we reflect on that impact, we are reminded that scientific legacies can extend beyond the laboratory, beyond a single career, and even beyond a lifetime.

Each year I hear from colleagues eager to remember a member with a named award. In past years, I have shared that the only option offered by the College is a named award endowment of $100,000.00. This is often out of reach for the members wanting to establish an award in memory of someone who contributed greatly to our field. Council took this challenge into consideration in January and now ACNP members have a meaningful opportunity to ensure that their dedication to advancing research continues to inspire future scientists through legacy giving and memorial contributions to the College in a variety of ranges.

Including ACNP in your estate plans, or making a gift in memory of a colleague, is a powerful way to carry forward a commitment to rigorous science, mentorship, and innovation. These contributions directly support early-career investigators, promote dissemination of cutting-edge research, and sustain programs that strengthen our field.

Naming Opportunities: Building a Living Legacy

Members may choose to establish named awards and initiatives that reflect their own scientific passions or honor the work and memory of a colleague. These opportunities allow families, friends, trainees, and collaborators to collectively celebrate a member's life and contributions.

Travel Awards

Travel awards are among the most impactful ways to support emerging investigators by enabling them to present their work and engage with leaders in the field at the ACNP Annual Meeting.

- **Named Travel Award (1 year)** – $5,000
  Covers the travel award plus administrative costs. Multiple donors may contribute to establish this award in a member's name.
- **Named Travel Award (3 years)** – $15,000
  Covers the travel award plus administrative costs.
- **Named Travel Award (5 years)** – $25,000
  Covers the travel award plus administrative costs.
- **Named Travel Award in Perpetuity** – $100,000 endowment

Each of these options ensures that a member's name remains connected to the advancement of young investigators and the exchange of new scientific ideas.

Research Communication and Dissemination

Supporting the communication of research is another meaningful way to extend a legacy.

- **Sponsor a Three-Episode Research Podcast Series** – $10,000
  The sponsor's name will be recognized as the provider of the series. Topics must be research-oriented, preferably from the member's field and approved by Council.
- **Open Access Publishing Scholarships (NPP or DPN)** – $5,500 per article
  The scholarship will be recognized within the published article, which will also be spotlighted on the ACNP homepage.

These opportunities ensure that critical findings reach the broadest possible audience while visibly honoring the donor or memorialized member.

Mentorship and Professional Development

Members may also choose to:

- **Sponsor a Near-Peer Mentorship Award (1 year)** – $12,000
  Covers the award to attend two annual meetings plus administrative costs.

A Lasting Commitment to Science

Programs such as these reinforce ACNP's longstanding commitment to cultivating the next generation of scientific leaders. Legacy gifts, whether through estate planning or memorial donations, transform personal dedication into sustained institutional impact. They allow a member's name to remain associated with opportunity, discovery, and mentorship long into the future.

Science advances because each generation builds upon the work of those who came before. Through thoughtful giving, ACNP members can ensure that their commitment to excellence in neuropsychopharmacology continues to open doors, fund ideas, and inspire innovation.

If you would like to learn more about legacy giving or named opportunities, I welcome a confidential conversation about how best to align your philanthropic goals with the College's mission. Together, we can ensure that the scientific legacies of our members endure fueling discovery for decades to come.