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**ACNP Early-Stage Investigator Assistance Program –
Extended for the January 2026 Annual Meeting in Nassau, Bahamas**

The ACNP Early-Stage Investigator Assistance Program is an initiative that started in 2024 to support early-stage investigators to attend the annual meeting. This need-based program reflects the College’s appreciation that the meeting can meaningfully advance an early-stage investigator’s career, yet attendance can be beyond the resources of these individuals.

Representative feedback from the 2024 awardees was extremely positive and indicated the program “helped [me] form new collaborations,” and that it provided “the opportunity to meet ... with leaders, mentors, and collaborators.” Based on its success, ACNP Council has renewed the program for the January 2026 Annual Meeting.

For this program, an early-stage investigator is defined as a Program Director/Principal Investigator who completed their terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training, whichever is later, within the past 15 years and who has not received a substantial independent research award (R01 or equivalent). ACNP members and invited guests are invited to apply via an online application. You must have already received an in-person invitation or be registered to attend the ACNP Annual Meeting in person to apply. If you have been awarded any other type of funding from ACNP for the Annual Meeting, such as a Travel Award, a travel stipend as a non-member participant, past travel awardee funding, or funding from other ACNP initiatives, you are not eligible for this program.

This program funding is needs-based, rather than merit-based. Eligible expenses include a five-night hotel stay, dependent care (i.e., childcare or eldercare), coach airfare, and ground transportation up to \$2,500. Receipts are required for all expenses, which will be reimbursed following the ACNP Annual Meeting. Thus, the program enables early career researchers to engage with leading experts and cutting-edge scientific information about the brain, behavior and neuropsychiatric research.