Improvements Planned for ACNP Web Site

Dave Sibley, Ph.D.

Over the next several months, ACNP members will notice a series of enhancements and updates being made to the College’s official web site, ACNP.org. The ACNP web site was initially launched in 1999, primarily due to the efforts of Jim Meador-Woodruff. After its initial launch, Jim served as the editor of the ACNP web site and superbly managed its growth and content expansion for many years. Now, with his recent transition to Editor-in-Chief of *Neuropsychopharmacology*, and my appointment as the new Web Site Editor, the College has undertaken a comprehensive evaluation of its web site with the goal of improving its functionality and value.

In the eight years since its inception, ACNP.org has served our membership well. However, its underlying infrastructure is aging and needs rebuilding to provide the up-to-date enhancements and functionalities that are now desired by members. Some of the planned additions to the site include real-time on-line registrations for meetings and dues payments, improved navigation and internal site searching, statistics reports of site usage by members and non-members, a searchable member directory, better integration of our large membership database with the web site, and an enhanced content management system allowing for more facile management of the site by ACNP staff. In the future, we also hope to implement customized viewing of site content based on expanded member profile data. This will allow the display of home page content specific to a member’s personal interests and may also allow for opt-in email notifications when new site-specific content is added, including relevant links to recently accepted *Neuropsychopharmacology* articles.

In addition to enhanced web site functionality, we are seeking to expand web-based member services. These include expanded administrative functions such as secure on-line forms for travel award nominations, meeting invitations, and possibly elections. In general, we are attempting to migrate a number of “paper-based” functions to the web. We are also exploring additional educational materials, content for advocacy groups and the public, progress reports...
from ACNP committees, scientific summaries from meeting presentations such as Teaching Day and the President’s Plenary, and consensus statements from meeting workshops. Links to rapid on-line *Neuropsychopharmacology* articles as well as content from our new *Neuropsychopharmacology Reviews* are also being investigated.

Our vision for enhancing communication regarding changes or additions to the site will include the creation of a monthly email to the general membership, including hot links pointing directly to recently-posted content. This should be particularly useful for our busy members who do not have time to monitor site changes on a frequent basis.

In order to implement many of the personalized web site features, we will be requesting your assistance in specifying key words representing your areas of specialization and professional interests. These key words will be used to flag content on the ACNP site that is of most interest to you. Please watch for emails and notices concerning keyword collection in the near future.

The ACNP staff and I are currently in touch with a number of web development companies and are evaluating their proposals for rebuilding our web site. Once we have selected a company and obtained approval through the Publications Committee and ACNP Council, we will commence work on the site with the goal of launching the new ACNP.org in the spring of 2008.

Over the coming weeks and months, I’ll be in touch with various ACNP committees and their chairs to seek input on our efforts and to understand how the College can help to meet their web-based needs. I look forward to leading the ACNP web site redevelopment effort and working with all of you to build a robust and useful web presence for the College. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at sibley@helix.nih.gov with your thoughts on how the ACNP web site can be expanded or improved.

---

### Upcoming Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACNP Annual Meeting</strong></td>
<td>December 9-13, 2007</td>
<td>Boca Raton Resort and Club, Boca Raton, FL</td>
<td><a href="mailto:acnp@acnp.org">acnp@acnp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Society for Bipolar Disorders 3rd Biennial Conference</strong></td>
<td>January 27-30, 2008</td>
<td>New Delhi, India</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kenes.com/isbd">www.kenes.com/isbd</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CCNP Annual Meeting</strong></td>
<td>June 6-9, 2008</td>
<td>Hilton Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, Canada</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Sidney.kennedy@uhn.on.ca">Sidney.kennedy@uhn.on.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Schizophrenia International Research Society 1st Inaugural Conference</strong></td>
<td>June 21-25, 2008</td>
<td>Venice, Italy</td>
<td><a href="http://www.schizophreniaconference.org">www.schizophreniaconference.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACNP Annual Meeting</strong></td>
<td>December 7-11, 2008</td>
<td>Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, Scottsdale, Arizona</td>
<td><a href="http://www.acnp.org">www.acnp.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As we approach December, all signs indicate that this year's Annual Meeting may be our largest in history. As I am writing this article, we have 111 more people registered for the meeting than at the same time last year, which was our largest registration in the history of the College to date. We have already booked more hotel rooms than our total from last year, and we also have 111 more posters this year than we had last year. The poster sessions will be crowded (as usual!) but filled with interesting science and great conversation between old friends and colleagues.

Dr. Robert Schwarcz and the Program Committee have done a great job in preparing an outstanding scientific program, and we are looking forward to another successful meeting in terms of the science presented. In addition to the scientific program, we have some additional opportunities this year that we think our members and attendees will enjoy and find beneficial.

- The Opening Night Reception will be a great way to reconnect with colleagues and friends. Please join us for the reception in the Mizner Center on Sunday, December 9th from 7:30pm-9:30pm.
- Our media relations firm, GYMR, will have representatives at the meeting to provide individual instruction and practice in media interview situations. They have offered this type of training before in a group format, and those who have attended have given those sessions high marks. This is a great opportunity for individual instruction; however you must sign up for this individual training in advance in order to participate. Please contact the Executive Office if you are interested at acnp@acnp.org.
- Another session dealing with the same topic will be open to everyone. Rich Hayes, author of *A Scientist's Guide to Talking with the Media*, will present a session entitled “The Science of Sound Bites: A Crash Course in Communicating with the Media” on Monday, December 10th, during the lunch break from 12:30pm-1:30pm. Kathy Phillips, Chair of the Public Information Committee, has more information about these sessions in her article on Page 4 of this Bulletin.
- The Education and Training Committee has planned a special session this year that will feature nine of our travel awardees. Through a competitive proposal process, nine travel awardees were selected to make brief presentations on their latest research at 11:30am on Tuesday, December 11th. Each presenter will have 10 minutes for his / her presentation and 10 minutes for questions and discussion. This will provide an opportunity for travel awardees to present scientific data to their peers, mentors, and to other senior scientists. Hopefully, this will be a valuable educational session both for the audience and the participants.
- Finally, we are looking forward to a special treat this year. Nobel Laureate and ACNP member Eric Kandel will attend the meeting this year and will be available during the poster session on Tuesday evening to sign copies of his book, *In Search of Memory: The Emergence of a New Science of Mind*. Dr. Kandel's book was awarded the 2006 Book Prize in Science and Technology by the *Los Angeles Times* and the 2007 Best Book Award by The National Academies. Originally published in hardback in 2006, a paperback edition is being released and will be available for purchase at the book signing.

The Boca Raton Resort and Club is preparing for your arrival. Many of you have been to this hotel before and are aware of its charm and old style elegance. Unfortunately, the hotel's Beach Club facility is being remodeled and will not be available to us. However, we will benefit from similar renovations that have already been completed in the main hotel. There are a number of fine restaurants available in the hotel and in the surrounding community. A restaurant guide has been sent to you that we hope will assist you in planning your social activities.

As we look forward to the future, we now have contracts signed for our meetings through 2011. Next year's meeting will be held at the Scottsdale Princess in Scottsdale, Arizona. In 2009, we will return to the Westin Diplomat in Hollywood, Florida. In 2010, we will meet at the new Fontainebleau in Miami, and in 2011 we will return to the Hilton Waikoloa Village in Hawaii for our 50th Anniversary Meeting.

I look forward to seeing you in December.
Researchers Training for Media Opportunities at the 2007 Annual Meeting

Katharine Phillips, M.D.

Scientists are increasingly recognizing the importance of communicating their research findings to policymakers, consumers, families, and other scientists and practitioners by doing media interviews. But most of us haven’t been trained to do this. By learning interviewing techniques, you can more effectively get out the message that you want people to hear.

This year ACNP will offer individual training sessions to its members and 2007 travel awardees who want to improve their interview and message delivery techniques when talking with reporters about their research. Whether your experience with the media is vast, limited, or somewhere in between, you will benefit from this training session. Offered in 30-minute intensive sessions on Saturday, December 8, and Sunday, December 9, you’ll learn tools and techniques for communicating effectively with the media. Participants will learn:

- How to shape and deliver key points,
- How to tailor your message to your audience,
- How to keep an interview focused,
- How to communicate nonverbally, and
- How to turn negative questions into positive answers.

Led by media relations professionals, each session will be conducted on an individual basis and will be tailored to your specific needs. This training will help you convey your research findings to the media in a clear and concise manner. Space is limited for the training, so please contact acnp@acnp.org to register for a time slot.

We also hope you’ll attend the special seminar, “The Science of Sound Bites: A Crash Course in Communicating with the Media.” Rich Hayes, Deputy Director of Communications for the Union of Concerned Scientists and author of A Scientist’s Guide to Talking with the Media, will present this session on Monday, December 10th, during the lunch break from 12:30pm-1:30pm. Rich will show attendees how research once hibernating in lecture halls and academic journals can reach a broader audience in a way that is accurate and effective. He will also help attendees better understand the process of an interview and feel more comfortable talking with reporters.

Invitation to Autism Speaks Satellite Symposium, December 14

Autism Speaks, Inc., invites all ACNP Annual Meeting attendees to the satellite symposium, “Development of Novel Neuropharmacological Therapeutics for Autism,” on Friday, December 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. in Boca Raton, Florida. This symposium will examine treatment models, measures for diagnostic assessment and outcomes and drug development. Chairing the program are Joseph Coyle, Harvard Medical School; Eric Hollander, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine; S.J. Enna, University of Kansas Medical Center; and Andrew Zimmerman, Kennedy Krieger Institute. There is no registration fee for the session, but if you plan to attend, please email Jenny Longmore at jlongmore@autismspeaks.org.
Annual Meeting Information

Annual meeting badges are currently being sent to each registered attendee. Please watch your mailbox and bring your badge to the meeting to reduce your wait time during registration. If you do not bring your badge to the meeting, you will be required to provide identification at registration.

Posters: In order to hang your poster at this year’s meeting, you will need push pins or tacks; they will not be provided.

Free Wireless Access will be provided throughout the lobby of the meeting area, outside the ballroom and session rooms.

Itinerary Planner: Please be sure to visit the itinerary planner at http://acnp.abstractcentral.com/planner.jsp.

Program Book will soon be available online at www.acnp.org.

Meeting Evaluation: All meeting attendees are urged to complete an evaluation of the meeting. Attendees who are requesting CME credit for the meeting are required to complete the evaluation. The cost for CME credits is $40.00. You may complete the evaluation in the ACNP Computer Center in Estate Salon III or on-line at www.acnp.org (click on Annual Meeting link). All evaluations must be completed by January 16, 2008.

Oakley Ray Tribute: A special tribute session to Oakley Ray, the previous Secretary of the ACNP for 26 years, will begin the Oakley Ray History Lecture on Sunday, December 9, at 5:30 p.m. The tribute will be followed by the lecture given by Don Klein.

Opening Night Reception: Join your colleagues on Sunday evening, December 9, 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., in the Mizner Center for the Opening Reception.

Travel Awardee Presentations: The Education & Training Committee has selected nine travel awardees to make an oral presentation at the meeting. On Tuesday, December 11, from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., we will have three concurrent oral presentation sessions. Each session will feature three individual presentations with Q&A.

Thursday Panel Sessions: Please note: The Thursday afternoon panel sessions will take place from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. – earlier than in previous years.

Boca Raton Restaurant Guide: Please be sure to pick up your restaurant guide at registration. We will also have detailed menus from selected restaurants available for browsing at the registration desk.

Networking Meeting Cancelled: There will not be a networking meeting for spouses and accompanying others this year.

Preliminary Schedule
46th Annual Meeting

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2007
8:00 am - 3:00 pm Council Meeting
8:30 am - 3:30 pm Committee Meetings as called by chairs
10:00 am - 7:00 pm Registration
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Travel Award Reception

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2007
7:00 am - 8:15 am Travel Award Breakfast
7:30 am - 6:00 pm Registration
8:30 am - 12:15 pm Teaching Day
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Teaching Neuropsychopharmacology
2:30 pm - 5:00 pm Paper Sessions: “Hot Topics”
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Oakley Ray History Lecture
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm Opening Reception

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2007
7:30 am - 5:00 pm Registration
8:30 am - 12:00 pm President’s Plenary
10:30 am - 4:30 pm Poster Viewing
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Buffet Lunch
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm Distinguished Lecture
3:00 pm - 5:30 pm Panel Sessions
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Poster Session I with Reception
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Issue Oriented Study Groups

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2007
7:30 am - 5:00 pm Registration
8:30 am - 11:00 am Panel Sessions
10:30 am - 4:30 pm Poster Viewing
11:00 am - 12:30 pm Lunch
11:30 am - 12:30 pm Travel Awardee Research Presentations
12:30 pm - 3:00 pm Issues in Ethics
3:00 pm - 5:30 pm Panel Sessions
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Poster Session II with Reception
6:00 pm - 11:00 pm Council Meeting for Committee Reports

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2007
8:00 am - 10:30 am Panel Sessions
10:45 am - 12:00 pm Council Meeting
12:00 pm - 2:30 pm Travel Award Luncheon
3:00 pm - 5:30 pm Panel Sessions
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Poster Session III with Reception

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007
8:00 am - 10:30 am Panel Sessions
8:00 am - 12:00 pm Registration
10:45 am - 12:00 pm Council Meeting
12:00 pm - 2:30 pm Panel Sessions

REGISTRATION HOURS
Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Monday – Tuesday 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
ACNP Directory

Please remember to update your information for the 2008 ACNP Directory by Friday, November 30. Information regarding this was sent via email on October 16.

To review and update your Directory information, go to http://www.acnp.org/default.aspx?Page=Home, enter your user ID and password, click “My Profile” on the left side of the screen, review your information, and click “Update” to finish. If you have not yet established your user ID and password to access the “Members Only” section of the website, please contact the ACNP office at 615-324-2360.

Members Approve Bylaws Revisions

Recently the membership approved changes to the ACNP Bylaws. These changes dealt primarily with the Ethics Committee and the process of dealing with an ethics complaint. The Constitution and Rules Committee, the Ethics Committee, and Council all spent a great deal of time in drafting, reviewing, and revising these proposed changes over the past year and a half. The members voted to approve the revisions by a margin of some 90% in favor and 10% opposed.

In addition to the Ethics Committee issues that were revised, there were a number of administrative updates included in the Bylaws revisions. One of those eliminated the requirement that elections have to be done by a mail ballot. Subsequently, we will be able to hold our elections for officers and Council members online in the future. You can look for that next year.

On behalf of the committee and Council members who spent many hours on the revisions, thank you for your vote to approve those changes.

NIH is accepting LRP applications – Deadline December 1.

NIH is inviting health professionals engaged in biomedical and behavioral research to apply online for a loan repayment award. The loan repayment programs (LRPs) are a vital component of our nation’s efforts to recruit and retain highly qualified professionals to careers in research.

NIH annually awards loan repayment contracts to approximately 1,600 health professionals with an average award of $52,000. More than 50% of the awards are made to individuals less than 5 years out of school. Approximately 40% of all new applicants are funded and 70% of renewals are funded.

The LRP application cycle is open through December 1. NIH will repay up to $35,000 annually of qualified educational debt for health professionals pursuing careers in one of the five Loan Repayment Programs (LRPs). The programs also provide coverage for Federal and state tax liabilities.

To qualify, applicants must possess a doctoral-level degree, devote an average of 20 hours per week or more to research funded by a non-profit organization, university, or government entity (NIH grant support is not required). Applicants must also have outstanding educational loan debt equal to at least 20% of their institutional base salary and be U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

All applications for 2008 awards must be submitted online by 8:00 p.m. EST, December 1, 2007.

To access the online application or for program information, please visit the LRP Web site at www.lrp.nih.gov. For assistance call the Helpline at 866.849.4047 or send email inquiries to lrp@nih.gov.

The Future of Postmarketing Surveillance of Psychotropic Medications

In response to the serious concerns that have been raised about the safety of drugs approved by the FDA, the ACNP Human Research Committee convened a meeting in Washington, DC on September 13, 2006 in which a roundtable of experts discussed the need for more effective postmarketing drug safety surveillance. Enclosed with this Bulletin is an Expert Roundtable Supplement that was published in CNS Spectrums based on that meeting. Much appreciation goes to Don Klein, Chuck O’Brien, Steve Marder, and others on the Human Research Committee who made this meeting successful.

1st Inaugural Conference of the Schizophrenia International Research Society—
June 21-25, 2008; Venice, Italy

Abstracts for independent oral and poster communications can now be submitted on the website: www.schizophreniaconference.org

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: January 30, 2008

Register early to obtain your 1st choice in hotel selection and lower registration fees.

A limited number of junior investigator travel awards will be available and can be applied for by sending a CV and Abstract for a proposed presentation to: schizophrenia@AOL.com
2008 CDI Workshops

The University of Pittsburgh is asking for assistance in identifying advanced post-doctoral students, fellows, or junior faculty who would be potential participants in the 2008 Career Development Institute (CDI) for Psychiatry or the 2008 Career Development Institute (CDI) for Bipolar Disorder.

The goal of the CDI is to provide training and mentorship to promising young psychiatric investigators and junior researchers. The program is designed to provide the basis for the necessary skills and support for them to have successful research careers. Applicants should have an M.D. and/or Ph.D. degree, be in the final year of residency or advanced post-doctoral position, or be at the junior faculty level for less than five years. The application deadline is January 7, 2008. The CDI for Psychiatry is scheduled for April 5-9, 2008 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The CDI for Bipolar Disorder is scheduled for April 26-29 in Pittsburgh. More details are available at www.cdipsych.org or www.cdibipolar.org.

Please forward the contact information for potential candidates to Kim Bauer at bauerka@upmc.edu.

American College of Psychiatrists Awards and Honors

The American College of Psychiatrists announces the following awards and honors. Additional information including applications and specific nomination requirements are available on the internet at www.ACPsych.org.

- The Bowis Award, Deadline: June 30, 2008
- Distinguished Service in Psychiatry Award, Deadline: June 30, 2008
- Award for Research in Geriatric Psychiatry, Deadline: January 5, 2008
- Dean Award for Schizophrenia Research, Deadline: January 5, 2008
- Award for Research in Mood Disorders, Deadline: January 5, 2008
- Education Award, Deadline: December 1, 2007
- Honorary Fellowship, Deadline: December 1, 2007

Multidisciplinary Psychiatric Genetics Training Program for Postdoctoral Fellows

The University of Chicago is actively looking for minority applicants for an NIH-funded training program in Psychiatric Genetics. This postdoctoral training program is focused on interdisciplinary approaches to genetics of complex inheritance psychiatric disease, and to basic research and technology development that may prove pertinent. Applicants must have a Ph.D. or M.D. and be a US citizen or have a green card. Detailed information is available at the following website: http://psychiatric-genetics-training.bsd.uchicago.edu/.

The Paul Janssen Fellowship is awarded to an outstanding young physician-investigator (must have M.D. degree) to conduct novel translational research in the field of neuroscience as it relates to psychiatric disease and medicine. The Paul Janssen Fellow will be assigned both a basic scientist mentor and a clinical investigator mentor from the faculty at Columbia University to serve as joint mentors. The fellow will take a basic observation made by the basic science mentor and apply it to the study of disease or treatment with the clinical research mentor.

Eligibility: Candidates from the international neuroscience community, holding an M.D. or M.D./Ph.D. degrees, and preferably having completed initial fellowship research training, are invited to apply. Fellows at Columbia University or the New York State Psychiatric Institute/RFMH are encouraged to submit applications.

Funding: The award provides a stipend, commensurate with experience, as well as some funding for research costs. The stipend provided may require supplemental funding by the mentors.

Length of Fellowship: Up to two years.

Preliminary Application Process (to be submitted by November 30, 2007):

The following should be provided in 12 point font (or larger) with a minimum of one-inch margins: 1) Face page letter identifying applicant and a brief description of previous training in medical research, previous research interests, current position and future research interests. 2) Front two-pages of the NIH biosketch (sections A & B only). 3) Letters of support/reference from at least three current or previous mentors. A COMPLETE PROJECT PROPOSAL IS NOT REQUIRED UNTIL NOTIFIED.

Preliminary application should be submitted electronically or via mail to:

Renee Azima Heller, M.A.
Administrator, The Paul Janssen Fellowship in Translational Neuroscience Research
Department of Psychiatry / Molecular Imaging & Neuropathology Division
Columbia University
1051 Riverside Drive, Unit 42
New York, NY 10032
tel: (212) 543-6774 / fax: (212) 543-6017
e-mail: rla2117@columbia.edu

A COMPLETE PROJECT PROPOSAL IS NOT REQUIRED UNTIL NOTIFIED. THE DECISION ON FINALISTS WILL BE MADE BY DECEMBER 14, 2007. IF YOU ARE SELECTED AS A FINALIST YOU WILL BE ASSIGNED A BASIC AND CLINICAL MENTOR AND WILL WORK WITH THEM TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION BY SUBMITTING THE FOLLOWING (DUE BY JANUARY 11, 2008):

1) A 150-word summary of proposed project. 2) Budget page specifying how funding will be allocated and describing the need and rationale for support at this point in the applicant’s career. 3) One-half page statement of mentorship arrangements and training goals. 4) “Other Support” of current and pending grant funding indicating percentage of effort and support level. 5) Research Plan (maximum of 5 pages): a. Goals; b. Background; c. Hypotheses; d. Experimental Design and Methods; e. Role of this study in awardee’s plans for future research. 6) Letters of support from both mentors. 7) Signed statement by Department Chair demonstrating approval of project and responsibility for ensuring space, personnel, and facilities. IRB and/or IACUC approval for project must be provided before the Fellowship starts.
To submit items to the Bulletin, please e-mail Julie Magill at jmagill@acnp.org