

Welcome to the ACNP 43rd Annual Meeting

This issue of Neuropsychopharmacology represents the first time the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) has published the abstracts of its annual scientific meeting. The ACNP was formed in 1961 and served to bridge a transition in psychiatry from psychological treatments to pharmacological ones, as treatments for its illnesses were developed. Now, as our disease concepts are undergoing another transition from theoretical constructs toward a molecular understanding, the ACNP is again bridging its members scientifically into an era where the molecular mechanisms of brain diseases are being discovered. The requisite basic neurobiology is vast; the illnesses are complex; and the translational tools are fewer needed. Each of us has to master data not only from our own field but also from neighboring specialties and use them creatively to advance our own research. The ACNP hopes to play an important role in its members work: to provide a forum for new data and critique; to stimulate new ideas based on data and discus-

sion; and to facilitate new collaborations that derive from shared interests and insights. Meanwhile, the ACNP has worked to share its expertise and recognize its social responsibility for scientific questions and causes around us. Recent years have seen ACNP members visiting elected officials, testifying at Food and Drug Administration hearings, developing white papers on contemporary topics, and educating broadly. This has not been without controversy or mistake, but has contributed to public dialogue. Being recognized in the cited literature for the work that we present is another step, albeit small, in taking responsibility for our data and focusing it on the ACNP goal of "understanding and treating disorders of emotion and cognition." Welcome to the ACNP 2004 Annual Meeting.

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President

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