



American College of Neuropsychopharmacology



December 12, 2010

The Honorable Patrick J. Kennedy
United States House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kennedy:

Thank you for your presentation at the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) annual meeting in Miami earlier this month. The ACNP Council and its membership greatly appreciate your vision of the need to conquer brain diseases.

It is impossible to overstate the impact of brain diseases on humanity. Five of the top ten causes of disease burden worldwide are disorders of the brain, according to the World Health Organization. Moreover, this burden is likely to increase over the ensuing decades as progress is made in developing countries to conquer treatable illnesses and advances continue in the treatment of other major health risks including cancer and cardiovascular disease. By contrast, progress in understanding and treating brain diseases has been hampered by the far greater complexity of the brain and its disorders compared to all other organ systems, and by the stigma associated with many of these conditions. Moreover, federal, state, and private funding for brain diseases continues to lag far behind funding for other medical areas as a function of disease burden. Simply put: nothing will have a greater impact on humanity than conquering brain diseases.

The ACNP is one of the world's leading organizations devoted to expanding our knowledge of disorders of brain and behavior and to driving efforts to improve treatments, cures, and preventive measures for these disorders. The ACNP Council unanimously and strongly endorses your effort for the Next Frontier Campaign for the Brain. Conquering brain diseases will necessitate a far greater investment than is currently being made, and will require a concerted collaboration among NIH, the FDA, academia, industry, and patient advocacy groups.

We look forward to working with you and many others on this exciting and important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Nestler, M.D., Ph.D.
President

David Rubinow, M.D.
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John H. Krystal, M.D.
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