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April 22, 2019

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University of Texas at El Paso Faculty Member Awarded ACNP-AMP Brad Fellowship to Expand Public Knowledge About the Critical Role of Animals in Health Research

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Katherine M. Serafine, Ph.D., an assistant professor of behavioral neuroscience at the University of Texas at El Paso has been awarded the [ACNP-AMP BRAD Fellowship](#). The fellowship is a partnership between the [American College of Neuropsychopharmacology](#) and the health research advocacy group [Americans for Medical Progress](#). It was created to help raise public awareness about the essential role of animals in health research, specifically for clinical and basic research for brain-behavior-drug interactions and advancements in psychopharmacology. Fellowship winners also help promote careers in the field of neuropsychopharmacology, the study of all forms of mental illness and their treatment.

The primary goal of Dr. Serafine's fellowship project will be to increase communications with the El Paso community about the vital contributions that animals have made toward advancing medical breakthroughs. Another goal is to foster increased career interest and diversity in the field of neuropsychopharmacology by working with regional high schools. In addition, Dr. Serafine will help bring [Biomedical Research Awareness Day](#) (BRAD) to an expanding list of communities. Launched in 2016, BRAD is an international day of events hosted by research institutions, staff and volunteers to honor the important role of animals in improving both human and veterinary medicine.

Dr. Serafine attended Norwich University as an undergraduate. There, she conducted research and served as a teaching assistant for a course focused on the principles of learning. The experience sparked her interest in both experimental science and classroom teaching. She then earned her Ph.D. in behavior, cognition and neuroscience at American University in Washington, D.C. Her training continued at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, in her hometown, as a postdoctoral fellow in behavioral pharmacology. In Dr. Serafine's current role as a faculty member at the University of Texas at El Paso, she works with students to study complex human diseases, like obesity, type 2 diabetes and substance use disorders by studying animal models.

"I'm excited to tell the UTEP and El Paso community more about the exciting research going on at our campus and how animals help us understand, treat and prevent complex human diseases," said Dr. Serafine.

"I look forward to helping my peers learn how to host BRAD events at their home institutions and engage with the public. It is also my hope that by spreading the word about different career paths and opportunities in neuropsychopharmacology and the critical role of animals in biomedical research, we can increase diversity in the health research workforce of the future."

Note to Editors: A high-resolution image of Dr. Serafine can be [downloaded at this link](#).

About the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology

The [American College of Neuropsychopharmacology](#), ACNP, founded in 1961, is a professional organization of more than 1,100 leading scientists, including four Nobel Laureates. The mission of ACNP is to further research and education in neuropsychopharmacology and related fields in the following ways: promoting the interaction of a broad range of scientific disciplines of brain and behavior in order to advance the understanding of prevention and treatment of disease of the nervous system including psychiatric, neurological, behavioral and addictive disorders; encouraging scientists to enter research careers in fields related to these disorders and their treatment; and ensuring the dissemination of relevant scientific advances.

About Americans for Medical Progress

[Americans for Medical Progress](#) (AMP) is a nonprofit, health research advocacy group that supports the advancement of human and animal medicine through responsible and highly-regulated research in animals. AMP informs the public about animal-based research through outreach events like [Biomedical Research Awareness Day](#), news and opinion articles, social media interactions and various online and printed publications. AMP is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charity supported by the nation's top universities, private research facilities, research-related businesses, scientific and professional societies, as well as by foundation grants and contributions by individuals. AMP's Board of Directors is composed of physicians, researchers, veterinarians and university officials.

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