

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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University of Wisconsin Scientist Awarded ACNP-AMP BRAD Fellowship to Expand Public Knowledge About the Critical Role of Animals in Health Research

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Margaux Kenwood, Ph.D., a post-doctoral research fellow in the Psychiatry Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison 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. Kenwood’s fellowship project will be to work with fellow scientists to increase conversations about the essential role of animals in advancing science and medicine. She will focus on increasing participation in [Biomedical Research Awareness Day](#) (BRAD), a program that provides a way for public audiences to learn more about why, when and how animals are involved in research. 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. It continues to grow and reach new audiences each year through the development of new activities and opportunities to learn about the topic. Dr. Kenwood will specifically support brain and behavior researchers in efforts to share their research and its connection to human health via BRAD. She hopes to use online communications in creative ways to connect scientists to public audiences.

Dr. Kenwood received her B.A. in neuroscience from Vanderbilt University in 2015. Under the mentorship of Dr. Ned Kalin, she completed her Ph.D. in neuroscience in the Neuroscience Training Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in June of 2021. Her thesis focused on the contribution of the orbitofrontal cortex, a prefrontal region that has been extensively implicated in aberrant regulatory control in the context of stress-related psychopathology, to individual differences in anxious temperament. During her Ph.D., she was supported by the National Institute of Mental Health Training Program in Emotions Research. Dr. Kenwood is excited to continue to leverage translational animal models to ask questions about how individual differences in temperament and stress susceptibility mediate both risk for psychopathology and responses to therapeutic interventions.

“I am excited to begin the Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD) Fellowship because of the unique opportunities it provides to participate directly in outreach related to animal models. This issue is fundamental in the scope of my current research, as I work with a nonhuman primate model for an early life anxious temperament that strongly predicts the later risk to develop pathological anxiety and other psychiatric disorders,” said Dr. Kenwood.

Note to Editors: A high-resolution image of Dr. Kenwood 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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