

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UW-Madison MD-PhD Student is Awarded Outreach and Education Fellowship Through the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology and Americans for Medical Progress

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Nakul Aggarwal, Ph.D., a neuroscientist and future medical doctor, 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 \(AMP\)](#). The fellowship aims to raise public awareness about the importance of research for mental health disorders and other brain-behavior topics, including drug interactions, as well as the role of animal studies required for this work.

Dr. Aggarwal hopes to focus his fellowship project on emphasizing the critical role of cross-species research in the basic, translational, and clinical science domains. He says, “This involves developing efforts to foster communication and appreciation of the direct impacts of animal research on human health among scientists and clinicians. I am particularly excited to extend such efforts to increase patients’ awareness of biomedical research and garner public support, which is integral to the long-term outlook of animal-based scientific inquiry.”

[Biomedical Research Awareness Day \(BRAD\)](#) is an AMP-run outreach program that educates the public about why, when and how animals are involved in research. Launched in 2016, BRAD is an international day of events hosted by individual research institutions, staff and volunteers. Together, they collectively honor the important role of animals in improving both human and veterinary medicine. The program also highlights careers in the field. BRAD continues to grow and reach new audiences every year through the imagination and passion of the ACNP-AMP BRAD Fellows, the [BRAD Champions](#) and Ambassadors who lead the effort at their own institutions, and the many other volunteers who come together to provide this unique educational outreach program.

Dr. Nakul Aggarwal is currently a student in the Medical Scientist Training Program (MD-PhD) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He earned his BS in Neuroscience from the University of Minnesota in 2016 and his PhD in Neuroscience in November 2022 under the mentorship of Dr. Ned Kalin at UW-Madison. His graduate work involved cross-species, translational studies in nonhuman primates (NHPs) and preadolescent children that characterized white matter alterations in early-life pathological anxiety, as well as the viability of white matter microstructure as a modifiable target in novel therapeutic strategies for youth with anxiety disorders.

Dr. Aggarwal is also dedicated to mentorship and the intersection of technology and health policy, having worked with the American Physician Scientist Association and National Academy of Medicine, respectively, on projects related to these efforts. Currently completing his final year of medical school, he plans to enter a research track

psychiatry residency in summer 2025 and ultimately pursue a career as a physician-scientist in child and adolescent psychiatry.

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