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Academy of Psychological Clinical Science

Annual Report (September 2024)

The Academy of Psychological Clinical Science

(APCS, or the Academy; <https://www.acadpsychclinicalscience.org/>)

Description of organization: The Academy is an alliance of leading, scientifically oriented, doctoral and internship training programs in clinical and health psychology in the United States and Canada. Academy membership is open to doctoral and internship programs with strong commitments to, and established records of, successful clinical science training.

History: The Academy grew out of an organizational meeting held in Bloomington, Indiana in 1994, and the first formal meeting of the Academy was held in New York City in 1995 with 21 of the original 26 member programs. In 1996, the Academy membership was expanded to including research-oriented internship program. In 2006, the Academy hosted a meeting in Tucson, Arizona to discuss “developing a positive vision for the future of doctoral training in psychological clinical science and identifying the best way to realize this vision.” This meeting paved the way for the development of an independent accreditation system, and on December 26, 2007, the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS) was incorporated. A detailed history of the Academy is available on its website: <https://www.acadpsychclinicalscience.org/history.html>

Ongoing activities: The Academy's main activities center on: (1) responding to the needs of our member programs, including discussing new topics as they arise (e.g., open science, undergraduate opportunities in clinical science, diverse career paths for clinical scientists), (2) supporting PCSAS and its ascendance, including assisting the in grass-roots coordination of licensing parity initiatives in individual states, (3) response to the needs of students in member program (via our Student Engagement Committee and student representative on our Executive Committee) and providing clinical science training opportunities for students in our programs, including the Clinical Science Student Training Fund (formerly called the “Flexibility Fund”); (4) recruiting new internship member programs and working with our internship member programs to enhance and provide for the continuity of clinical science training from students' doctoral training through internship completion; and, (5) promoting high-quality clinical science training by participating in profession-wide service activities, including, for example, joining collaborative writing projects on the future of training in clinical psychology, representing clinical science at national professional organization meetings, and, across the board, engaging in activities that increase awareness about the role of clinical science in easing the burden of mental illness in the US.

Activities from September 2023 to September 2024:

- Awarded Clinical Science Student Training Awards.
- Funded several projects to advance goals identified in the 2023 Summit on Clinical Science Training, including efforts to improve internships and interns experiences and increase dissemination and implementation work in clinical science (see: <https://www.acadpsychclinicalscience.org/fundedsummit.html>). We also made a second call for further proposals (<https://www.acadpsychclinicalscience.org/call.html>)
- Offered a Clinical Science Forum at the 2024 APS Annual Convention in Washington DC.
- Planning for a Clinical Science Forum to be held at the APS Annual Convention in San Francisco in May, 2025.