



Office of the Governor

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 19, 2023

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Governor receives national award for commitment to public, mental health

SANTA FE – Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham was awarded the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology’s (ACNP) annual Public Service Award in recognition of her significant efforts to champion mental and public health in New Mexico.

The ACNP is a professional society comprised of more than 1,200 leading scientists in the field of neuropsychopharmacology.

“Our selection committee was impressed with Gov. Lujan Grisham’s efforts to improve the health of the public, with a particular emphasis on being a fierce champion for senior citizens, veterans, and individuals living with disabilities; for sponsoring the HOPE for Alzheimer’s Act (H.R. 1507); and prioritizing policy changes and education to increase access and treatment of addiction and substance use disorders in New Mexico among many other things,” said **Carlos Zarate Jr., M.D.**, ACNP awards committee chair.

The governor was nominated for the award by University of New Mexico Distinguished Professor and Chairman Dr. Mauricio Tohen.

“[Gov.] Lujan Grisham has had a broad and inclusive influence on behavioral health policy. Throughout her years of service, she has been a fierce champion for senior citizens, veterans, and individuals living with disabilities,” **Dr. Tohen** said. “She has sponsored state and national legislation to better the lives of Americans living with mental health conditions.”

As a multi-term Congresswoman, the governor cosponsored the Hope for Alzheimer’s Act, a bipartisan effort that expanded Medicare coverage to include care planning services to ensure better outcomes and better quality of life. In 2017 and 2020, she introduced the Care Corps Act to address the growing demand for quality community and in-home supports for seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities.

In 2021, Lujan Grisham established the New Mexico Health Care Affordability Fund (HCAF) that reduces the cost of health insurance and medical expenses for working families and prohibits copays and other cost sharing for people with insurance who seek behavioral health services.

“I’m honored to receive this award, but I know there is much more to do. As governor, I will continue to implement solutions to make healthcare more affordable and accessible to every New Mexican,” said **Gov. Lujan Grisham**. "To the members of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, thank you for presenting me your 2023 Public Service Award, and thank you to Dr. Mauricio Tohen for nominating me.”

The letter of recommendation and award letter are attached.

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May 12, 2023
ACNP Honoric Awards Committee
Re: Public Service Award Nomination

Dear ACNP Liaison Committee:

It is my honor to nominate Governor of New Mexico Michelle Lujan-Grisham for the seventh annual ACNP Public Service Award in recognition of her substantial contributions to affect policy and her commitment to improve mental health and addictions in our country.

Lujan Grisham has had a broad and inclusive influence on behavioral health policy. Throughout her years of service, she has been a fierce champion for senior citizens, veterans, and individuals living with disabilities. She has sponsored state and national legislation to better the lives of Americans living with mental health conditions.

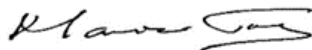
On the national level, Lujan-Grisham served as a multi-term State Representative. She participated as a member, and then Chair, of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. In that role, she often exhorted the federal government for healthcare equity for this population. In addition, in 2013, Lujan sponsored the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act (H.R. 1507), a bipartisan effort that relied on the neuroscience to increase diagnosis of this disease and related dementias, leading to better care and outcomes for Americans. She twice introduced the Care Corps Act (2017, 2020) to address the growing demand for quality community and in-home supports for seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities including mental illness.

In 2017, as part of the national NM delegation, Lujan Grisham requested the U.S. HHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG) investigate whether New Mexico was properly and effectively serving people with behavioral health needs. With the OIG's systematic research (2019) report in hand, Governor Lujan-Grisham prioritized her behavioral health blueprint to improve the lives of New Mexicans. Her emphasis has been on growing the behavioral health workforce, increasing the number of providers and services that will accept Medicaid, addressing specific needs for children and adolescents, and decreasing the state's high suicide rate. One example of this work is SB 317, that established the NM Health Care Affordability Fund which is dedicated to reducing the cost of health insurance and medical expenses for working families. The bill also prohibits copays and other cost sharing for people with insurance who seek behavioral health services.

Gov. Lujan-Grisham also prioritized policy change and education to increase access and treatment of addiction and substance use disorders in New Mexico. This is especially important given the New Mexico's rate of opioid addiction and deaths due to overdose and suicide. Two important initiatives include HB 52 (2022), that modernizes the state's Harm Reduction Act to better serve communities by allowing organizations across the state to distribute fentanyl test strips and other drug testing devices. Under her leadership, the state has substantially expanded Screening, Brief Intervention to Treatment (SBIRT) to help prevent more devastating SUDs.

These are just a few examples of Governor Lujan-Grisham's long career in supporting the values and priorities endorsed by the ACNP. The Liaison Committee would like to nominate Governor Lujan-Grisham as a Public Service Award nominee for 2023.

Sincerely,



Mauricio Tohen MD, DrPH, MBA
University Distinguished Professor and Chairman
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center



American College of Neuropsychopharmacology

September 7, 2023

Michelle Lujan-Grisham, J.D.
Governor of New Mexico

Dear Honorable Michelle Lujan-Grisham, Governor of New Mexico,

You have been selected as the recipient of the sixth annual American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) Public Service Award for 2023. The ACNP Public Service Award was established in recognition of substantial contributions to affect public policies or other activities related to improving the health of the public with an emphasis on patients with brain diseases. This award is given to an outstanding leader dedicated to serving and educating the public about mental illness. The awardee is committed to advancing research to benefit patients and their loved ones and have an impact on the continued investment in neuroscience research. The award is intended to be an expression of appreciation from the College toward outstanding public leaders, like you, who provide complete, accurate, and unbiased information to the public about brain diseases.

Our selection committee was impressed with your efforts to improve the health of the public, with a particular emphasis on being a fierce champion for senior citizens, veterans, and individuals living with disabilities; for sponsoring the HOPE for Alzheimer’s Act (H.R. 1507); and prioritizing policy changes and education to increase access and treatment of addiction and substance use disorders in New Mexico among many other things.

We would like to invite you and your spouse/guest to attend our 2023 ACNP Annual Meeting as our guest. The hybrid meeting will be December 3-6, 2023 in Tampa, Florida. The awards will be announced virtually prior to the start of the annual meeting and presented during the Annual Meeting. As chair of the Honorific Awards Committee, I will present you with a plaque. We also ask if you and your nominator, Mauricio Tohen, would be willing to answer a few questions about the award in a recorded video that will be available for the meeting attendees once the award winners are announced.

We prefer that this information not be publicly announced until the award is presented prior to the Annual Meeting. However, we understand that it may be necessary for you to share the information with certain colleagues in order to make the necessary plans to attend the hybrid meeting. Please let Rebecca Shannon, rshannon@acnp.org, know if you plan to attend this year’s annual meeting in-person or virtually.

If you plan to attend the annual meeting in-person, you may stay up to five nights at the JW Marriott Tampa Water Street or Tampa Marriott Water Street in Tampa, Florida with your room and tax billed to the ACNP master account. The ACNP will also cover your coach airfare. You may either purchase your own ticket and send the receipt to the ACNP Executive Office for reimbursement after the meeting or call Direct Travel toll-free 800-229-3344 and they will assist you with your travel plans. Please contact Rebecca Shannon, rshannon@acnp.org or 615-324-2361, at the ACNP Executive Office if you have any questions or need any assistance in making your travel and hotel arrangements.



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In addition, I am enclosing information about the College and about our Annual Meeting. The ACNP is a professional society, made up of some ~1200 leading scientists in the field of neuropsychopharmacology. You will discover that the ACNP Annual Meeting is considered the best forum in the world for the latest research about the brain, human behavior, and psychotropic drugs. The ACNP Annual Meeting is open only to ACNP members and their invited guests, so its atmosphere is casual and collegial, but exceedingly intellectually stimulating. It is attended by leading academic researchers as well as many of the foremost scientists from the pharmaceutical industry. You will find it to be a delightful and unique opportunity to interact with some very interesting people.

Of course, the College will want to issue a press release regarding the award and may ask someone to contact you for additional information.

On behalf of the Award Selection Committee and the ACNP Council, we thank you for the work you have done and what we hope you will continue to do. We look forward to celebrating your success and contributions to our field.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos A. Zarate, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Carlos A. Zarate, Jr., M.D.
Chair, Honoric Awards Committee

Encl: [ACNP Mission Statement](#)
[College Description](#)