

Modification of Asilomar Attendance Policy

It has come to our attention that the current policy of excluding all family members from attendance at the Neuroscience Asilomar Retreat is a particular burden on parents with very young children, especially on women. We will make exceptions to this general rule for parents for whom this constitutes a severe burden, otherwise preventing their attendance. In general, it is our expectation that this will only apply to parents with children under the age of 2 although any compelling situation will receive sympathetic consideration. Any expenses of attendance for children or caregivers will have to be born by the persons involved and not by the NS program or by the scientist's laboratory.

While we want to encourage attendance by every member of this program, the major purpose of the Asilomar Retreat is to provide a chance for scientific interchange between program members. All participants are expected to come prepared to devote the major portion of their time to this scientific objective. In particular, this requires a commitment to attend all scientific sessions. Caregivers and children must also understand and accept this commitment of the scientist involved. Caregivers and children should not plan on being present or disrupting scientific sessions.

This is an experiment that we hope will be successful in making it possible for more of our community to attend Asilomar. Its impact will be reviewed after Asilomar.

Louis Reichardt
Neuroscience Program Director