A New Date and Location for the Neuroethics Society Meeting!

In response to feedback from our members, asking to have the NS meeting coincide with the Society for Neuroscience meeting, we are planning to shift the meeting from May in Washington to November in San Diego. We apologize to those of you who have already registered for the May meeting, and will of course carry over your registration fee to November or refund it. Our hope is that this change will make it easier for people, especially non-North American members, to attend our meeting. Stand by for further details in the coming weeks.
Special Session at FENS 2010 (Amsterdam, July): **The Global Challenges in Neuroethics**

This symposium will address why neuroethics is central to engaging the public in brain research. The discussion will reveal how the neuroscience community can influence public and media perception.

**CHAIR**
Colin Blakemore (Oxford, UK)

**SPEAKERS**
- Judy Illes (Vancouver, Canada) *Too busy for neuroethics?*
- Barbara Sahakian (Cambridge, UK) *Cognitive enhancement drugs for young and old brains*
- Pierre Magistretti (Lausanne, Switzerland) *Neurotechnology inside and outside the laboratory*
- Elaine Snell (London, UK) *Neuroethics in the media*


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**Synesis, New Online Scientific Journal, Makes its Debut**

The Potomac Institute for Policy Studies ([www.potomacinstitute.org](http://www.potomacinstitute.org)) is pleased to announce that its Potomac Institute Press has launched a new online publication, *Synesis: A Journal of Science, Technology, Ethics and Policy*, [www.synesisjournal.com](http://www.synesisjournal.com). Borrowing its name from a classical Greek term used in reference to critical discernment and informed decision making, Synesis will be a forum for critical thinking and for analysis of the science, ethics and policy needed for successful human endeavor in a wide range of fields. The Editor-in-Chief of *Synesis* is Prof. James Giordano, PhD, Chair of Academic Programs and Director of the Center for Neurotechnology Studies at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, and Senior Research Associate at the Wellcome Centre for Neuroethics and Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University of Oxford, UK.

Synesis will appear semi-annually and will present original papers that address science, technology, ethics and policy – both singularly and in conjunction with one another. All papers are peer-reviewed. The journal welcomes submissions from those who seek to form intellectual bridges within and between disciplines. The debut issue of *Synesis*, Winter/Spring 2010, is entitled "Toward a Green Economy: Science, Technology and Policy in Interaction," and is guest edited by James Tate, PhD, former Science Advisor to the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior.

For more information, please contact Editor-in-Chief, James Giordano, at [jgiordano@potomacinstitute.org](mailto:jgiordano@potomacinstitute.org) or Sherry Loveless, Synesis Managing Editor, at [editorial@synesisjournal.com](mailto:editorial@synesisjournal.com). Submissions are welcome and may be sent to [editorial@synesisjournal.com](mailto:editorial@synesisjournal.com).

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**Endorsed by the Neuroethics Society**

Sessions on *BioPrediction* and...
- Addiction
- In the Law
- Methods
- Young People
- Policy
- Social Science and Ethics

Organised by Professor Ilana Singh (LSE) and Professor Walter Sinnott-Armstrong (Duke)

For a detailed schedule and registration, please visit [http://www.neuroethics.ox.ac.uk](http://www.neuroethics.ox.ac.uk)
Endorsed by the Neuroethics Society
(To review the policy endorsed meetings, please see the neuroethicsociety.org and click on “annual meeting” and then “meeting endorsement.”)

Introducing Addiction Neuroethics

Neuroscience research is revealing how drugs act on the brain to cause addiction and why some individuals are more likely to develop an addiction than others. This research may lead to more effective treatments of addiction and revolutionize social policy. However, there are critical questions that need to be considered such as: Are individuals responsible for drug-induced behaviors? Should society regulate or prohibit the use of new psychotropic drugs to enhance cognition in the same way that they do other recreational drugs? What can brain imaging tell us about who we are, and how should we protect ourselves against the misuse of this information? What impact can media stories about neuroscience have on public understandings of addiction?

This one-day conference will explore the ethical, social, legal and policy implications of neurobiological research in addiction.

Registration:

Full $100
Student $25

Free for QBI staff and students (registration is required)

Places are strictly limited.

To register, email adrian.carter@uq.edu.au.
For more information regarding the conference and program, please visit:

Friday 9 April 2010
Queensland Brain Institute
The University of Queensland

International Keynote Speakers

Professor Judy Illes
Chair, National Core for Neuroethics, University of British Columbia
The Image and Diction of Addiction

A/Professor Eric Racine
Director, Neuroethics Research Unit, Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal, Université de Montréal & McGill University
Neurocognitive enhancers: Hopes, concerns and health policy issues

Other Invited Speakers

Professor Wayne Hall, NHMRC Australia Fellow, UQ Centre for Clinical Research & Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland
Professor Simon Chapman, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, University of Sydney
Professor Iain McGregor, Professor of Psychochemistry, School of Psychology, University of Sydney
Associate Professor Nicholas Lintzeris, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, University of Sydney
Associate Professor William Grey, Department of Philosophy, The University of Queensland
Associate Professor Jayne Lucke, Principal Fellow, UQ Centre for Clinical Research, The University of Queensland
Associate Professor Craig Fry, Principal Fellow, Murdoch Children’s Research Institute and University of Melbourne

Dr Robert Hester, Senior Research Fellow, Department of Psychological Sciences, University of Melbourne
Dr Joan Leach, Convener, Science Communication Program, The University of Queensland
Dr Mark Daghlish, Director of Addiction Psychiatry, Royal Brisbane & Women’s Hospital & Senior Lecturer, The University of Queensland
International Neuroethics Network (INN) Updates
Yemi Banjo, INN Manager

- Featured member
- Addiction neuroethics working group
- INN updates

FEATURED MEMBER: DR. SKY GROSS, TEL-AVIV UNIVERSITY, ISRAEL.

Dr. Sky Gross is a postdoctoral fellow in anthropology at Tel-Aviv University and a prospective research fellow at the Interdisciplinary Center for Computational Neuroscience (ICNC) at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Dr. Gross’ research foci and background include several lanes, among which are subjects of prenatal testing in the ultraorthodox Jewish community, social micro dynamics in postnatal diagnosis of Down’s syndrome, inclusion of complementary medicine in the delivery room, and epistemological and symbolic boundaries between biomedical and complementary practitioners in the hospital setting.

In her more recent work, she considers issues associated with both philosophical and anthropological understandings of the brain and its relation to conceptualizations of the ‘mind’. With this intention, she uses historical analysis to approach the ethical debate surrounding the practice of frontal lobotomy. In her latest published paper, she brings an extensive fieldwork in a neuro-oncology clinic to shed light on complex expert and lay constructions of brain tumors as objects for diagnosis.

Dr. Gross is now working on two main projects, each presented in academic conferences, namely, the cultural correlates of neuro-anatomical research and brain localization (or 'how is culture mapped onto the brain?'); and, based on participant observation in brain surgeries, the place of the 'mind' in the operating room. She is also co-editor, along with Dr. Uri Maoz, a neuroscientist from the California Institute of Technology, of a book concluding a series of interdisciplinary workshops in which neuroscientists, neurologists, law experts, philosophers, and social scientists sought to contribute to the understanding of several key issues in neuroethics, including questions of 'free will', criminal responsibility, and the changing role of psychiatry in view of recent neuroscientific advances.

Dr. Gross is currently developing venues for collaboration with outstanding scholars in the field of neuroethics and social studies of neuroscience, in view of advancing research in an area that requires further institutional support as well as international cooperation. She hopes to establish a unit within the ICNC that will attend to these areas of study, both locally and globally.

Selected publications:


If you are interested in Dr. Gross’ work, or recognize a potential for collaboration, you may contact her at skygrossbrain@googlemail.com.

Addiction Neuroethics Conference

The Addictions Neuroethics Working Group will be hosting a one-day conference at the University of Queensland, Brisbane Australia on April 10, 2010, to explore the ethical, legal, and policy implications of neurobiological research in addiction. For more information about the conference, please visit www.qbi.uq.edu.au
ADDICTIONS NEUROETHICS WORKING GROUP
Contributed by Dr. Adrian Carter, University of Queensland, Brisbane

Innovations in neuroscience are revealing the role of the brain in drug use and addictive behavior. Advances in this area have implications for public policy and the treatment of people who use drugs. They also raise fundamental questions about free will, self-control, responsibility, identity and self-understanding. An Addiction Neuroethics Working Group is being convened, under the auspice of the Neuroethics Society, to improve understanding of these important issues.

The primary aims of the Working Group are to:
1. Facilitate the development of theory and practice in addiction neuroscience.
2. Facilitate the interpretation of these findings in the lives of those with addictions.
3. Clarify understandings about key concepts such as choice and responsibility in the context of treatment for addiction.
4. Provide public policy recommendations or guidance.

Researchers already committed to the Addiction Neuroethics Working Group are:
- Prof Wayne Hall, University of Queensland, Australia
- Prof Neil Levy, University of Melbourne, Australia & University of Oxford, UK
- Prof Judy Illes, University of British Columbia, Canada
- Assoc Prof Craig Fry, University of Melbourne, Australia
- Assist Prof Benjamin Capps, National University of Singapore, Singapore
- Dr Adrian Carter, University of Queensland, Australia

We are seeking expressions of interest from other researchers wishing to join the Working Group. Please email Prof Wayne Hall (w.hall@sph.uq.edu.au), Assoc Prof Craig Fry (craig.fry@mcri.edu.au), or Dr Adrian Carter (adriancarter@uq.edu.au)

INN UPDATES

Special Issue of AJOB-Neuroscience on Global Neuroethics
In the past few months, the INN executive team has been working on action items from the last annual meeting in Chicago. Dr. Choi has initiated a dialogue with Editor in Chief of AJOB-Neuroscience, Professor Paul Wolpe, on the possibility of having a special issue dedicated to global neuroethics issues. If you may be interested in contributing to such an issue, please email Dr. Judy Illes, Senior Editorial Advisor to AJOB-Neuroscience.

IBRO
Dr. Illes, together with Drs. Quirion and Magistretti have also begun talks with IBRO to formalize ethics curricula for the IBRO schools. While this will be the norm henceforth for IBRO schools held in Canada, we will keep you updated on schools held in other countries.

Ask the Expert
At the INN headquarters, we have also taken the first steps to create the “Ask the Expert” page, an initiative that will help promote neuroethics globally by providing advice to those who are interested in teaching neuroethics, setting up programs and seeking funding. Dr. Illes has graciously accepted to become our first neuroethics expert. Please visit the INN page early in March to send her your questions! We will post questions (anonymously, with your permission) and answers, and we also welcome others to comment. We need other volunteers to serve as experts as well. Please send me an email at ocbanjo@interchange.ubc.ca if you are interested in supporting this initiative. Identify an area of expertise if you wish, and we will add you as an Expert.

If you have any questions or comments please visit the INN website at www.neuroethics.ubc.ca/INN or contact Yemi Banjo at ocbanjo@interchange.ubc.ca.
Neuroethics Conference for Healthcare Professionals, July 23-25

By Cassie West, Program Manager, Center for Neuroscience and Society

I’m pleased to announce a first of its kind neuroethics conference aimed at healthcare professionals. The first annual Penn Conference on Clinical Neuroscience & Society will review the latest developments in brain imagery, psychopharmacology, devices, competence and medicolegal practices, and explore the ethical issues raised in the context of lectures and case discussions.

Our distinguished faculty includes:

- Paul Appelbaum, MD, Elizabeth K. Dollard Professor of Psychiatry, Medicine & Law, Director, Division of Law, Ethics, and Psychiatry, Dept. of Psychiatry, Columbia University
- Arthur Caplan, PhD, Chair, Center for Bioethics, University of Pennsylvania
- Martha Farah, PhD, Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for Neuroscience & Society, University of Pennsylvania
- Joseph Fins, MD, Chief, Division of Medical Ethics and Professor of Medicine, Professor of Public Health and Professor of Medicine in Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College
- Helen Mayberg, MD, Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology, Emory University
- Jonathan Moreno, PhD, David and Lyn Siften University Professor of Biomedical Ethics and History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania
- Alan Schatzberg, MD, Chair of Psychiatry & Behavior Sciences, Stanford University, President of American Psychiatric Association
- Daniel R. Weinberger, MD, Senior Scientist, National Institutes of Health.

For additional information and to register, visit our conference web page at: http://neuroethics.upenn.edu/index.php/events/clinical-conference or send an email to conference@neuroethics.upenn.edu

Share your successes!

- Have you recently won an award or academic recognition?
- Has one of your colleagues done something worth of recognition?
- Don’t forget—achievements of student members are eligible too.

We are putting together an “Awards” section of the Neuroethics Society website and future newsletters. Please submit suggestions to administrator@neuroethicssociety.org