

John J. Lynch, MD Center for Ethics
MedStar Washington Hospital Center

Program for Neuroethics & Clinical Consciousness



The John J. Lynch, MD Center for Ethics at MedStar Washington Hospital Center introduces a research program devoted to the intersections of philosophy, neuroscience, empirical psychology, and clinical neurology. The Program for Neuroethics and Clinical Consciousness (PNCC) serves as a special research unit of the Lynch Center, contributing to relevant policy and practice, such as institutional criteria for brain death, improved evaluations of decision-making capacity in disorders of consciousness, and specialized analyses of clinical cases involving neurointensive care. In addition, the PNCC invites scholars of relevant disciplinary backgrounds and at various degrees of study, to collaborate in investigating the ontological and normative clinical implications of ongoing advances within these fields.

Examples of questions and subjects involving PNCC research:

- How cognitive scientific (computational-representational) views of consciousness and empirical psychology can contribute to our understanding of morality and ethical decision-making
- The determination of death via clinical criteria for total brain failure and the conceptual/physiological distinction between higher- and lower-level neurologic function
- The use of fMRI and EEG technologies in the clinical confirmation and subsequent treatment of disorders of consciousness
- Improving the timely diagnosis, capacity assessment, and quality of life of patients experiencing Locked-In syndrome
- The social and ethical examination of present and future neurotechnologies, such as pharmaceutically engineered cognitive ‘enhancements’ and EBS
- The normative evaluation of clinical applications of artificial intelligence
- Investigating the validity of scientific claims about the discovery of possible neurocorrelates to moral phenomena and moral behavior
- What medically driven neuroscientific advances suggest reductively regarding the ontological question of consciousness and moral phenomena

Papers by invited or accepted scholars resulting from this work will be fast-tracked for publication in a special PNCC section of the Journal of Hospital Ethics.* For more information on the PNCC, please contact:

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Application

Visiting Scholars will receive temporary status as affiliates of the John J. Lynch, MD Center for Ethics at MedStar Washington Hospital Center, with full research and medical library privileges, hospital identification, and parking accommodations (if on campus). Visiting Scholars are expected to hold a midlevel post-graduate degree, e.g. MA, MS, MPH, have equivalent professional experience or credentialing, or be enrolled in a relevant doctoral program, e.g. PhD or medical student. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. Applicants will be considered regardless of institutional affiliation or geographic location.

To apply for a position as a PNCC Visiting Scholar, please submit this application along with the following listed documents to Christian Carrozzo at christian.carrozzo@medstar.net or mail to the John J. Lynch, MD Center for Ethics, Program for Neuroethics and Clinical Consciousness, MedStar Washington Hospital Center, 110 Irving Sreet NW, EB 3108, Washington, D.C.

Name: _____ Date: ___/___/_____
Occupation: _____
Institutional Affiliation: _____
Email or Telephone: _____
Area of Intended Focus: _____

Time frame: __ Spring __ Summer __ Fall __ 3 Months __ 6 Months

Please provide the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Letter of Research Intent (500 words or less, describing your tentative thesis)
- Letter of Recommendation (Optional)

*The *Journal of Hospital Ethics* is a peer-reviewed academic journal devoted to furthering normative discussion associated with moral complexities and value conflicts as they relate both practically and theoretically to the care of patients, families, and clinicians within hospitals. JOHE is published by the John J. Lynch, MD Center for Ethics and produced by the University Publishing Group (UPG). JOHE is the official proceedings publication for the International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation (ICCEC) and a partner journal of the American Society for Bioethics & Humanities (ASBH).



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