

Strategic Plan 2016–2021

International Neuroethics Society

April 2016

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Society 

The International Neuroethics Society (INS) is an interdisciplinary group of scholars, scientists, clinicians and other professionals who share an interest in the social, legal, ethical and policy implications of advances in neuroscience. The late 20th century brought unprecedented progress in the basic sciences of mind and brain and in the treatment of psychiatric and neurologic disorders. Now, in the early 21st century, neuroscience plays an expanding role in human life beyond the research lab and clinic. In classrooms, courtrooms, offices and homes around the world, neuroscience promises to deliver new tools to achieve our goals and prompt a new understanding of humans as social, moral and spiritual beings.

As a society, our mission is to promote the study of the ethical, legal and social implications of neuroscience through interdisciplinary and international research and scholarship, education, outreach and public engagement for the benefit of people of all nations, ethnicities, and cultures.

The following strategic priorities were developed by the Executive Committee, reviewed by the Board of Directors and approved on April 14, 2016.

Comments will be solicited from and a report provided to the Membership at the annual meeting on November 11, 2016.

Priority 1: Position the Society, with its multidisciplinary membership and leadership, as an authoritative body on matters pertaining to neuroethics.

Goal: Provide and promote high-quality scholarship and dissemination of accurate information about neuroscience and neuroethics.

Goal: Provide preeminent gatherings for the presentation and discussion of neuroethics research, issues and applications.

Goal: Provide experts to the media to discuss neuroethics topics in the news, and experts available for consultation services.

Goal: Gather the leaders in the field to continue to shape the field and its growth.

Goal: Secure and foster strong, active partnerships, coalitions and alliances that promote the alignment of ethical inquiry with advances in basic neuroscience discovery, and the translation of developments to the clinical context.

Strategies to achieve goals:

- Establish working relationships with other organizations for neuroethics research, scholarship, expertise and education in the neurosciences.
- Engage visibly with major relevant initiatives (e.g., BRAIN Initiative, IOM Forum, Human Brain Project).
- Collaborate or co-sponsor national and international meetings with other neuro- and ethics-related organizations.
- Launch an Experts Bureau with an administrative plan to keep it up to date.
- Maintain a Resources section on the website.

Priority 2: Promote and support research, scholarship and education in the field of neuroethics.

Goal: Encourage and enable neuroethics scholarship among colleagues and trainees through meetings, networking opportunities, fundraising, and educational and publication opportunities.

Goal: Enhance the visibility of neuroethics through the dissemination of results and products to all sectors of the external community with relevant interests.

Goal: Encourage funding for neuroethics research, scholarship, collaboration, and training.

Goal: Work in mutually beneficial ways with the official journal of the INS and other partner and professional journals that publish in the field of neuroethics.

Strategies to achieve goals:

- Promote and facilitate collaborative relationships between and among senior researchers and early career or student scholars in neuroethics on an ongoing basis, at the Society' annual meeting, and in other meetings and venues.
- Approach and discuss the importance of neuroethics grant-making with government and private funding sources.
- Seek a financial relationship from the official journal of the Society in support of the designation of "official".
- Reach out to related journals in neuroscience, social science, general science and other journals to encourage publication of neuroethics material.

Priority 3: Develop sustainable funding for the Society [see INS Recommendations for Policy/Guidelines Governing Relationships between the INS and Commercial Sources of Support]

Goal: Identify and secure government, industry and philanthropic support.

Goal: Seek opportunities for partnership with other relevant professional organizations.

Strategies to achieve goals:

- Create a fundraising task force.
- Create a model for leveraged and partnered funding; engage industry partners to assist lead.
- Work with organizations in the private sector, such as publishers with interests in neuroethics, to support the Society financially and/or in kind.
- Develop a database of neuroscience professional organizations with ethics committees; identify opportunities for collaboration and service.

Priority 4: Retain and recruit members

Goal: Expand the size and scope of membership – individuals, programs, and organizations.

Goal: Increase the opportunities and enhance the means by which members can interact in face-to-face activities and in virtual programs.

Goal: Increase awareness of the opportunities for members to participate in committees and other activities within the Society.

Strategies to achieve goals:

- Create value-added for membership, the neuroethics community, and external bodies with relevant interests.
- Enhance communication (e.g., refreshed newsletter, logo, President's Letter).
- Identify and reach out to biomedical ethics /neuroethics related groups.
- Become more strategically visible to other relevant organizations.
- Offer mentoring programs.
- Increase committee volunteer opportunities.
- Offer awards, prizes and other membership incentives.
- Expand leadership opportunities for the annual meeting.
- Engage better with regional neuroethics conferences through partnerships and membership presence.