



# Neuroethics Society

www.neuroethicssociety.org — January, 2011

Steven Hyman, President ▪ Turhan Canli ▪ Martha Farah ▪ Hank Greely ▪ Judy Illes ▪ Barbara Sahakian ▪ Julian Savulescu  
*Executive Board*

## The Neuroethics Society Annual Meeting Recap

By Chelsea Ott, *Assistant Editor*

The Neuroethics Society Annual Meeting was held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt on November 12th.

The evening before, a Meet and Greet was held for attendees to get to know one another and network. Following this reception, the Working Groups had a chance to meet over dinner, as well (summaries of their progress are included on pages 3-4).

The next day began with a talk from Patricia Churchland (UCSD), the philosopher who is best known for combining neuroscience and phi-



Patricia Churchland (UCSD) speaking about how rules and biology influence behavior.



The Addiction Neuroethics Panel.

losophy. In a fascinating extension of her earlier work on philosophy of mind, she presented a new way of viewing morality as emerging in part from the evolutionary heritage of the human brain.

A panel on Addiction Neuroethics followed. Wayne Hall (U Queensland) moderated the discussion between NS President Steve Hyman, (Harvard) and George Koob (Scripps). Topics addressed included what constitutes addiction, should addicts be held responsible for their actions, and the ethics behind the option of using pharmacotherapy as an alternative to a prison

sentence.

Two concurrent participatory sessions were then held, Careers at the Intersection of Science and Society and a Teaching Neuroethics Workshop. Steve Hyman (Harvard) gave an overview on the different types of career paths available, as many of those present were students who will continue to promote the

*Continued on Page 2...*



Steve Hyman and Alan Leshner talking to the Careers at the Intersection of Science session.



Martha Farah talking to a group about Teaching Neuroethics.

The lunch break gave attendees an additional opportunity to network. The Business Meeting was held during the second half of lunch and notes can be found on page six.

We then had a poster session in which 42 posters were presented on a variety of topics. Stay tuned to the American Journal of Bioethics: Neuroscience to see the published abstracts.

Tom Insel (NIMH) delivered the Keynote Address. He discussed the relationships that government and academic biomedical researchers and physicians have with the pharmaceutical industry, and controversies over conflict of interest, noting that this afflicts psychiatry more than any other medical specialty.

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emerging field of neuroethics. Senior scientists in the field were also called upon to share their experiences and answer questions from the newer generation.

Martha Farah (UPenn) led another group on teaching neuroethics. Along with three panelists who have taught neuroethics to undergraduate students, graduate students and law students, the group shared teaching methods, ideas for classroom activities and assignments, and resources for students and instructors.

An Updates and FYIs portion of the meeting was then called, giving members the opportunity to address all attendees about upcoming conferences, opportunities, etc.

Katheleen Michels spoke for the [Fogarty International Center](#), Eric Racine about the [Brain Matters 2](#) conference, Paul Root Wolpe for [AJOB: Neuroscience](#), Joe Powers for the [Clinical Neuroscience and Society](#) Conference, Martha Farah for [Neuroscience Bootcamp](#).



Attendees during the poster session.

To close the day, Judy Illes (University of British Columbia) moderated a panel on Global Health and Neuroethics. Panelists featured Gonul Peker (Izmir, Turkey), Adriana Gini (Rome), Julie Robillard (University of British Columbia), and Gladys Maestre (Venezuela). The panel spoke on a wide array of topics from expectations of neuroethics in Turkey, using interdisciplinarity to solve problems in neuroethics, working with first nations in Canada, and what neuroethics looks like in Haiti after the earthquake.

To view more pictures from the meeting, please follow this [link](#).



A group of students enjoying breakfast.

## Working Group Summaries

### Summary of Brain-Based Legal Implications - By Marc Jonathan Blitz

We began our session on brain-based legal implications by wandering into the territory covered by the other Neuroethics Society working groups: What can neuroscience tell us about the existence (or non-existence) of free will, or about the neural correlates of consciousness? How should we address the ethical questions raised by cognitive enhancement technology? What can fMRI tell us about our mental life (and about it can't they reveal)?

To a casual observer, it might have seemed as though we were discussing everything *but* the implications of neuroscience for law. In fact, many of these broader questions have potentially significant implications for the law -- and have already found their way into debates among legal scholars, and in some cases, into courtroom arguments. So we had little difficulty shifting from these broader philosophical questions into discussions about their legal implications.

The question of what we can and can't learn from fMRIs, for example, was an important one for the law of evidence in 2010. In June, a federal court for the first time addressed the question of whether fMRI brain scans were admissible as evidence that a party was truthful or dishonest: The Court in that case excluded the brain scans, noting -- among things -- the skepticism of most neuroscientists that fMRI scanning was ready to be used for real world lie detection. We discussed the details of this particular case, but also speculated a bit about the future, and about how effective fMRI lie detection would have to become in order for a judge to find it admissible. On the one hand, as some participants noted, courtroom juries often consider -- and give weight to -- evidence of a kind that wouldn't pass muster as scientific proof. Right now, for example, juries often judge whether witnesses are lying by listening to their testimony and observing their demeanor. fMRI evidence of someone's truthfulness might be just as good -- even when it's *not* good enough to overcome the kind of skepticism it would face as a scientific proposition. On the other hand, as other members of our group worried, jurors may feel more

ready to doubt the story told by a witness than they are to doubt a very impressive looking brain scan picture. Our discussion delved more deeply into each of these considerations, as well as others, and was enriched by the fact that we had both neuroscientists and lawyers at the table.

We also spent time discussing other intersections between neuroscience and law. We traded thoughts, for example, on where we each stood in the debates about when neuroscience should exculpate (or justify mitigated punishment) for someone who has engaged in criminal violence, and on how neuroscience might illuminate questions about individual freedom and autonomy. We discussed the question of whether fMRI scans might violate an individual's right to privacy, or other constitutional rights, when they are ordered mandated by the government, or perhaps, when they are required by an employer, as a condition of keeping a job. Because our Working Group session was held together with that of the Working Group on Neuroscience and National Security, we discussed not only how such questions might arise in the setting of a criminal trial, or in an employment context, but also in the kinds of national security-related settings that have been central to significant constitutional controversies in the past decade.

I very much look forward to continuing some of these fascinating discussions, at the 2011 Neuroethics Society conference, and also to starting others on the legal implications of neuroscience and philosophy of mind -- as well as to some additional digressions into other more general questions about free will and the neural correlates of consciousness (not only because such questions might be of interest to legal thinkers and lawyers, but also because they're quite interesting themselves).



## Working Group Summaries Continued

### Cognitive Enhancement and Deep Brain Stimulation Summary - By Fabrice Jotterand, Ph.D., M.A.

A multidisciplinary and international team formed our working group on Cognitive Enhancement and Deep Brain Stimulation. It included Tamami Fukushi (Japan Science and Technology Agency), Peter B. Reiner (University of British Columbia), Jens Clausen (University of Tuebingen), David Sloan (West Virginia University) and myself (UT Southwestern Medical Center). At first hand, one could expect a lack of synergy between these two areas of neuroethics. Reflections on Deep Brain Stimulation focus on clinical issues whereas debates on Cognitive Enhancement raise, at this juncture, mainly conceptual issues. Far from it! Our reflections began with an examination of moral enhancement, i.e., the potential use of invasive devices interfacing with neural tissues for the manipulation of human *moral* behavior. Then, we turned to Deep Brain Stimulation and its clinical applications. We briefly discussed technical questions before we transitioned into ethical and philosophical issues. Interestingly enough, both sets of discussion on Deep Brain Stimulation and Cognitive Enhancement raised somewhat identical concerns: What is the nature of the consciousness and its relation to the brain? How do we form a sense of (moral) self? What is the impact of the technological manipulation of human behavior on concepts such as autonomy and authenticity?

The take home lesson from our discussion is twofold: 1) the manipulation of brain functions, whether to treat or to enhance, raises similar conceptual, ethical and regulatory issues that need careful examination; and 2) to this end, the challenge ahead of us will be to develop an anticipatory framework to harvest the benefits of emerging neurotechnologies and avoid potential public uproar. Needless to say we only scratched the surface of the issues we discussed. Let's hope this working group will allow further reflections among the members of the Neuroethics Society and perhaps even the development of collaborative projects on Cognitive Enhancement and/or Deep Brain Stimulation.



The Cognitive Enhancement and DBS Working Group

### Global Health Summary—By Benjamin Rubin

The Working Group on Global Health attracted a diverse group of people from the Americas and Eurasia interested in the ethical issues that arise in helping people worldwide who suffer from brain-related health problems. We spent much of the session discussing and drawing lessons from our experiences working with people living in poverty, including drug addicts in Mexico and post-traumatic stress disorder victims in Haiti in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake. The common thread that emerged was that culture plays an enormous role in issues such as identity and stigmatization that are of critical importance to students, patients, and caregivers. In order to engage people living in diverse cultures and circumstances it is therefore essential to help people identify their own most pressing neuroethical problems rather than making assumptions about what they are experiencing. In both classroom and therapeutic settings, members of the working group reported rewarding experiences for themselves and those with whom they engaged in this collaborative spirit.



The Global Health Working Group

## Committee Updates

### Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee was created by the Governance Statement to make recommendations to the Board on new leadership. The board will appoint three members to this committee and four were elected by the general membership. The board selected Hank Greely as chair of the Nominating Committee with Barbara Sahakian and Julian Savulescu. Nominations for the committee were received at the meeting and electronically.

On behalf of the Neuroethics Society, thank you to each of the seven nominees for running for one of the four spots on the Nominating Committee. The four elected, in alphabetical order, are Stephanie Bird, Mark Frankel, Alan Leshner, and Richard Nakamura. Gladys Maestre finished fifth and thus becomes the first alternate, should one of the elected members be unable to serve. Each of the nominees enjoyed a lot of support from the voters.

### Program Committee

The Program Committee is responsible for the content and execution of the annual meeting. The committee will have seven members, one of whom will be the chair; and terms of not less than two years and not more than four. Terms will be staggered for continuity. Nominations were accepted until November 30 via emails to Karen Graham. Nominees may be interviewed by a member of the Board. The committee will be chaired by Paul Root Wolpe.

### Communications and Outreach Committee

The Communications & Outreach Committee is responsible for the website, newsletter, a potential blog and/or discussion forum. The committee will have seven members, one of whom will be the chair; and terms of not less than two years and not more than four. Terms will be staggered for continuity. Nominations were accepted until November 30 via emails to Karen Graham. Nominees may be interviewed by a member of the Board. Martha Farah will chair the committee.

### Submit Your Book Information for Our Website

The NS website will now have a "Books by Members" Page which will display new books from authors in our membership. Please send us a brief description of your work and a link to where the book can be purchased and we would be happy to display it. Information can be sent to Chelsea Ott at [chelsea@neuroethicsociety.org](mailto:chelsea@neuroethicsociety.org).



## Notes from the Neuroethics Society Business Meeting held at the Annual Meeting on November 15, 2010

By Karen Graham, *Executive Director*

- Membership is up from six months ago to a current count of just over 250.
  - With a grant from the Dana Foundation, all outstanding bills are paid and accounts are in good order.
  - The website and newsletter have expanded and it is anticipated there will be further growth as more new plans take shape. Members are asked for any ideas to provide more information and interaction among the membership. Please send these to [administrator@neuroethicsociety.org](mailto:administrator@neuroethicsociety.org)
  - Activities increase as the society grows. Examples given were a panel and reception hosted in partnership with the European Dana Alliance at FENS last July and NS materials handed out at several meetings related to neuroethics. Working Groups have been established within the Society with their first meeting held on November 11 in San Diego (see pages 3-4 of the newsletter for summaries).
  - The Governance Statement was reviewed. This statement is the culmination of work by the board to provide new leadership for the Society. It initiates a Nominating Committee and staggered terms for board members. The terms of 4 members will expire in early 2011, 5 terms will expire in 2012, and 5 terms will expire in 2013.
  - In addition to the Nominating Committee, a Program and a Communications & Outreach Committees are established within the structure of the Society (see page 5 for more detailed information).
- Three proposals were made during the business meeting:
    1. The first was to add “international” to the Society name. Discussion followed with an amendment offered to reword the proposal so that the name reflects the international nature of the Society. The reworded language was voted on and passed.
    2. The second proposal was to co-locate the NS annual meeting with SfN three years out of four, with IBRO every fourth year. Discussion centered on the NS being a new organization, that is still immature and needs to be aligned with a large meeting. Some felt that the Board should determine the location of the annual meeting. The proposal was defeated.
    3. The final proposal was to permit proxy voting in elections. It was pointed out that the board has authorization to do this in the original charter and the proposal was withdrawn.
  - It was announced that the 2011 Meeting will be on November 10 and 11 in Washington, D.C. in conjunction with the Society for Neuroscience meeting.
  - Lastly, new business was called for but none was introduced and the meeting was adjourned.

The Science Network attended both the Neuroethics Society Annual Meeting and the Society for Neuroscience conference and collected great video footage from some of our members including Hank Greely, Steve Hyman, Judy Illes, Paul Root Wolpe, and more. Please follow this link to The Science Network [website](#).



## International Neuroethics Network (INN) Updates

Ania Mizgalewicz,  
NN Manager



### INN Breakfast Meeting Summary

The INN breakfast meeting was held in San Diego on 14 November 2010. Attendees summarized the outcomes of the Neuroethics Society business meeting (12 November 2010) which included i) name change of the Society to include “International” and the possibility that the INN could become a new Committee of the Society, ii) proxy voting incorporated into by-laws and iii) the motion to move the annual meeting every fourth year alongside IBRO may be revisited in the future. Upcoming neuroethics events in 2011 in Japan (Japanese Neuroscience Society meeting), Canada (Brain Matters II), Italy (IBRO meeting) and in 2013 in the UK were discussed. Publications of interest by INN members were highlighted, including the Oxford Handbook for Neuroethics (eds. Illes & Sahakian) and a special issue in the journal *Accountability in Neuroscience* (Ishihara and Fukushi). Finally, the therapeutic effects of placebo and surrounding neuroethical issues are of particular interest to NIH/NCCAM, and were proposed as an interesting theme for the next INN/Neuroethics Society meeting.



We thank Dr. Angie Kehagia for her work on the INN and wish her well for her return to her homeland Greece. We warmly welcome Ania Migalewicz, UBC Cognitive Systems Major Major and Research Intern at the National Core for Neuroethics.

## Neuroethics Event Calendar

Please check our website for the most up-to-date listings. Share your event with us at [administrator@neuroethicssociety.org](mailto:administrator@neuroethicssociety.org)

**February 21—March 1** *Cognitive Enhancement: An interdisciplinary conference for young scholars – post-docs and Ph.D. students* University of Mainz, Germany. [http://ful.academics.de/jobs/call\\_for\\_abstracts\\_54285.html](http://ful.academics.de/jobs/call_for_abstracts_54285.html)

**March 12—21** *Ethics and the Brain*, University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. Keynote by Steven Pinker and talks from Patricia Churchland, Joseph Dumit, Adam Kolber, Nancy Murphey, Jesse Prinz, Adrian Raine. This is a free event, for more information please see <http://muconf.missouri.edu/sciencessocietysymposium/index.html>

**March 21—26** *Vegetative State: A Paradigmatic Problem of Modern Society* Munich, Germany. Interdisciplinary sessions on five different topics including a presentation from each participant, methodological workshops such as a comprehensive training on interdisciplinary presentation and working in interdisciplinary teams; excursions to a functional neuroimaging laboratory, a special rehabilitation center for VS patients and a palliative care unit; movie matinee and round table discussion with presentation of the workshop results; social events such as a concert, a city tour, joint dinners and a get-together party <http://oxbionet.medsci.ox.ac.uk/conferences/21-26-march-2011-vegetative-state-a-paradigmatic-problem-of-modern-society>

**April 1-3** *Sixth International Conference on Ethical Issues in Biomedical Engineering* Brooklyn, NY.

**April 8-9** *Exploring Human Enhancement: A Symposium* Renaissance Hotel, Richardson Texas. The Center for Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology invites submissions of abstracts of up to 250 words exploring ethical, cultural, humanistic explorations and evaluations of human enhancement, from existing and emerging technologies to speculative technologies. We are especially interested in submissions relating to interdisciplinary work and on new developments in the field. With this in mind, we invite submissions from philosophers, scholars in arts, literature, bioethics, cultural studies, and from scientists and technologists who take a humanistic perspective on their studies. Each author should only submit one proposal.

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## Neuroethics Event Calendar

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Proposals for group presentations, panels, and workshops with innovative formats are also welcome. <http://www.utdallas.edu/c4v/human-enhancement-symposium/>

**April 11-12** *Technologies on the stand: legal and ethical questions in neuroscience and robotics* Tilburg University, Netherlands. The conference will have two independent, but related tracks: Law and neuroscience and law, ethics, and robotics. See [http://kolber.typepad.com/ethics\\_law\\_blog/2010/09/call-for-papers-legal-and-ethical-questions-in-neuroscience-and-robotics.html](http://kolber.typepad.com/ethics_law_blog/2010/09/call-for-papers-legal-and-ethical-questions-in-neuroscience-and-robotics.html) for more information

**April 26– 28** *II International Symposium on Disorders of Consciousness* Santiago de Cuba. Main topics include: Pathophysiology of consciousness generation, theories of consciousness, PVS, MCS, neuroimaging techniques, neurophysiologic tests, pharmacological treatment, neurorehabilitation, neuroprotection, neurocritical care and neuromonitoring, new trends in cerebral cardio-pulmonar-cerebral resuscitation. American citizens can legally attend this meeting. For more information email [braind@infomed.sld.cu](mailto:braind@infomed.sld.cu) or see <http://www.engraciacal.com>

**May 26-27** *International Neuroethics Conference: Brain Matters II* Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Ethics in Translation of Neuroscience and Research to Psychiatric and Neurological Care. Submit completed abstracts by February 1 in a word document (file name: FIRST AUTHOR NAME.doc) by emailing them to [neuroethics@ircm.qc.ca](mailto:neuroethics@ircm.qc.ca) with the subject line "Abstract Brain Matters 2" For more information please see [www.brainmatters2.com](http://www.brainmatters2.com)

**July 22—24** *Clinical Neuroscience and Society*, University of Pennsylvania. This conference 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. CME and psychology/nursing CE available. For a full overview and more information, please see this [link](#).

**July 31—Aug 10** *Neuroscience Bootcamp* University of Pennsylvania. Applications due February 1st.

Neuroscience is increasingly relevant to a number of professions and academic disciplines beyond its traditional medical applications. Lawyers, educators, economists and businesspeople, as well as scholars of sociology, philosophy, applied ethics and policy, are incorporating the concepts and methods of neuroscience into their work. Indeed, for any field in which it is important to understand, predict or influence human behavior, neuroscience will play an increasing role. Boot Camp is designed to give participants a basic foundation in cognitive and affective neuroscience and to equip them to be informed consumers of neuroscience research. Follow this [link](#) for more information.

**Submit your events to**  
[administrator@neuroethicssociety.org](mailto:administrator@neuroethicssociety.org)

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Neuroethics  
Society 

[www.neuroethicssociety.org](http://www.neuroethicssociety.org)

Our mission is to promote the development and responsible application of neuroscience through interdisciplinary and international research, education, outreach and public engagement for the benefit of people of all nations, ethnicities, and cultures. Questions and comments about the Neuroethics Society should be directed to Karen Graham, Executive Director, [kgraham@neuroethicssociety.org](mailto:kgraham@neuroethicssociety.org).

The NS Newsletter would welcome your ideas, reactions and reportage. Have you recently attended an interesting meeting? Are you planning to attend one? Or host one? Are you looking to hire a postdoc or staff member? Are you looking for a position in neuroethics? Would you like to interview one of your fellow NS members? There are many ways to contribute to the Newsletter, so please find one that works for you and get in touch by emailing [administrator@neuroethicssociety.org](mailto:administrator@neuroethicssociety.org)