



Neuroethics Society

www.neuroethicssociety.org — November, 2010

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

More Important News about the Neuroethics Society Annual Meeting!

November 12th at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in the Douglas Pavilion A

The Annual Meeting is almost here and it won't be the same without you. The [speakers and topics](#) are in place. Many of the leaders in the field will attend. It will be a great place to network. Over 100 participants are attending. [Join us in San Diego.](#)

The Program: The meeting brings together a variety of scholars from a range of academic and professional backgrounds from around the world to discuss some of the issues to be faced as neuroscience influences our society. **Patricia Churchland** will open the meeting by asking the question: *What role do rules play in navigating the social world?* In Addiction Neuroethics, **Wayne Hall** will moderate a discussion between **Nora Volkow** and **Steven E. Hyman**. The afternoon's topic will be devoted to neuroethics in the context of global mental health. We will open up the topic with a keynote address by **Tom Insel**, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, followed by an international panel of experts from Canada (**Judy Illes** and **Elena Brief**), Turkey (**Gonul Pecker**), Italy (**Adriana Gini**), and Venezuela (**Gladys Maestre**). For the first time, our meeting will feature concurrent sessions, with **Martha Farah** and a panel offering a *Teaching Neuroethics* workshop and Steven E. Hyman offering advice to students on *Careers at the Intersection of Science and Society*.

In addition to these topic areas, there will be plenty of time for networking and socializing, starting with our *meet-and-greet* and the Working Groups dinners on Thursday evening. And there is the **poster session** featuring 40 presentations this year.

During *Updates and FYIs* (also known as speed dating), Adrian



Carter will invite all participants to share their latest news which will also feature a brief presentation on funding opportunities by Kathleen Michels of the Fogarty International Center at the NIH.

The Business Meeting: We look forward to hearing your thoughts on the future direction of our Society during our open business meeting, held during lunch on Friday, November 12.

Three committees are being organized – Program, Communications & Outreach, and Nominating. Only members are eligible to serve on a Committee either by nominating themselves or by being nominated by another member and agreeing to serve. The Executive Committee will appoint each chair and, in the case of the Nominating Committee, two additional members (as outlined in the Governance Statement).

The Program Committee is responsible for the content and execution of the annual meeting, is composed of 7 members, one of whom will serve as the Chair. Each member serves at least a 2-year term, but no more than 4 years. Nominations can be made at the Business Meeting or by email to kgraham@neuroethicssociety.org until November 30. Nominees may be interviewed by an executive committee representative. Selections will be announced in the January newsletter.

The Communications and Outreach Committee is divided into four parts: 1) website, 2) newsletter, 3) outreach to members and perspective members, 4) other – blog, discussion forums, etc. Two members will serve in each of these divisions with an additional person as a chair to coordinate. Each member serves at least a 2-year term, but no more than 4 years. Nominations can be made at the Business Meeting or by email to kgraham@neuroethicssociety.org until November 30. Nominees may be interviewed by an executive

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committee representative. Selections will be announced in the January newsletter.

The Nominating Committee will select members to replace those Board members whose terms expire. (The terms of four of the 14 members of the Board of Directors will expire in early 2011.) From the nominations, four members of the Nominating Committee will be elected by the membership by email ballot in accordance with the following timeline:

-Nominations accepted by email and through the business meeting – November 12.

(Note: Unlike the other committees, you can nominate someone, including yourself, by email BEFORE the Business Meeting.)

-Deadline for statements from nominees for the ballot – November 19.

-Election of Nominating Committee by December 12.

-Recommendations by the Nomination Committee due January 31.

-Board elections completed by February 28, 2011.

Additional information about each committee is posted on the website. Nominations should be sent to Karen Graham, kgraham@neuroethicsociety.org or made at the business meeting.

Working Groups: You can still join a working group. Groups will get together following the “Meet and Greet” opening of the Annual Meeting, 5 – 7:00 p.m. at the Manchester Grand Hyatt. Separate reservations have been made for each group at a nearby restaurant to continue discussions. All the groups will be in the same location allowing some flow and interactions among the different groups. (Please keep in mind that each individual is responsible for payment of his/her meal.)

The Working Group dinners are designed to bring members of our Society with shared interests together in an informal setting to promote collaborations. Please contact Karen Graham if you would like to be a part of a Working Group, kgraham@neuroethicsociety.org



Working Groups are:

- Addictive Neuroethics
- Global Brain Health and Neuroethics
- Predictive Biomarkers for Alzheimer's Disease
- Deep Brain Stimulation
- Cognitive Enhancement
- Neuroscience and National Security
- Neuroscience and Free Will
- Brain-Based Legal Implications

Updates and FYIs at the 2010 Neuroethics Society Meeting (otherwise known as “Neuro Speed-dating”) 11:30am – 12:00pm, Friday November 12

Would you like to attract more students, full academic positions or find collaborators? Are you interested in broadening your research collaborations or seeking international collaborators. The 2010 Neuroethics Society meeting will feature an open information session to allow researchers to connect with other neuroethics scholars. Participants will have up to two minutes to present their project or research opportunity to meeting delegates. All opportunities relevant to the neuroethics community are welcomed, including (but not limited to):

- Research
- Education
- Publishing
- Policy
- Events
- Funding

If you have a project, job vacancy or funding opportunity that you would like to promote to the neuroethics community, then this is the place to do it. If you are interested in participating in the “speed-dating” session, email Adrian Carter for more information: adrian.carter@uq.edu.au.

Please direct any additional questions to

Chelsea@neuroethicsociety.org or

kgraham@neuroethicsociety.org

An Interview with Floyd E. Bloom, M.D. by Chelsea Ott, NS Administrator

From 1989 until March 2005, Dr. Bloom was Chairman of the Department of Neuropharmacology at The Scripps Research Institute. From March 2005, he is Professor Emeritus, Molecular and Integrative Neuroscience Department at TSRI. He previously was Director of Behavioral Neurobiology at The Salk Institute and Chief of the Laboratory of Neuropharmacology of NIMH. A member of the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine, he has received numerous awards and a number of honorary degrees from major universities. From until 2000 he was the Editor-in-Chief of SCIENCE Magazine. He is a Director of Alkermes Inc, Elan Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and a Trustee of Washington University.



Neuroethics Society: What neuroethical issue most concerns you today? Five years from now?

Floyd Bloom: My concerns are with the treatment of the seriously mentally ill— those addicted to substances of abuse, major depression and schizophrenia. In my view, if they choose to consult a physician, that physician may not be trained to recognize or to treat their conditions, and may not believe that treatment is possible or that existing treatments are effective.

The healthcare reform act will make this situation worse because, with no more physicians in the healthcare delivery apparatus, the increased flux of patients seeking care for all their previously neglected ills will make it even more difficult for the mentally ill to find a proper physician.

I have a looming concern that with further advances in functional connectivity magnetic resonance imaging, attempts will be made establish diagnoses based strictly on patterns of inferred network activity and to treat on those diagnoses.

NS: What do you think the future of Deep Brain Stimulation looks like?

FB: I think it will unquestionably be evaluated in presently untreatable brain diseases, such as persistent vegetative states, schizophrenia, attention deficit disorder, and post-stroke rehabilitation as well as the currently successful movement disorder patients and the very promising unipolar depressed.

NS: As a former member of President Bush's Council on Bioethics, do you have any advice for the new commission?

FB: I think it is their responsibility to examine the ethical consequences of the healthcare reform legislation with its emphasis on electronic health records that physicians are being paid to implement against their judgment and desire, and its lack of emphasis on the need for disease prevention and health promotion incentives if not mandates to participate by citizens gaining access to an under capacity health care system.

NS: How has your ability to cross disciplines aided your research?

FB: I think of neuroscience as the great exploiter of

discoveries and progress of advances in other fields— biochemistry, molecular and cellular biology, systems science and psychology. The more broadly one is exposed to the steps that have advanced science the more likely one is to apply a new approach to their own chosen problems in the neurosciences.

NS: What has been your most satisfying project dealing with neuroethics to date?

FB: When my colleagues and I moved from The Salk Institute to The Scripps Research Institute our animal use protocols became a subject of intense debate. We were the first scientists who needed to do survival surgeries on our experimental subjects, rodents and non-human primates.

Previously, the Scripps scientists considered as acceptable taking bits of tail for gene analyses or drawing blood from tail veins or the retro-bulbar spaces, but putting electrodes into brains to stimulate or lesion neurons, sample spinal fluids, or dialyze chemicals was considered barbaric as was behaviorally rewarding or punishing animals to train their performance.

Accomplishing their acceptance of these procedures required patience, supportive letters from other neuroscience-intense institutions, and several inspections with constant scrutiny. Our nearly 30 years of progress in the neuroscience of substance abuse have been the payoff.

NS: How would you best advise students hoping to pursue a career in neuroscience to incorporate Neuroethics into their work? What would your warning to them be?

FB: Neuroscience does reveal issues of ethical relevance that many other fields of life sciences do not, largely related to understanding the complex biology of learning, memory, emotional regulation, and decision making, and the emerging notions of what consciousness is. Protection of experimental subjects, exclusion of pain while perturbing behavior, and self-responsibility are the tip of an iceberg of problems in waiting.

Young scientists need to read broadly and discuss these issues as they are encountered with each other and with their mentors and other advisers. As far as warnings go, keep your eyes and your mind open: you will be surprised.

American Society of Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH): Health and Community A conference report by Emily Bell and Cynthia Forlini

We write this as the 12th Annual Meeting of the American Bioethics Society for Bioethics and Humanities wraps up four days (Oct 21-24th, 2010) of interdisciplinary panels, workshops and presentations in sunny San Diego. Topics covered at this meeting were diverse. The field of neuroethics was well represented, both at philosophical and clinical levels. We were delighted to see many of our colleagues here!

On the first day, a panel (Emily Bell, Nir Lipsman, Walter Glannon, Joseph Fins, Eric Racine) highlighted ethical and social considerations in the use of neurosurgery for psychiatric disorders. We were fortunate to hear from key authors in the field of deep brain stimulation and neuroethics in this panel. Issues discussed related to the influence of desperation on capacity and informed consent, the impact of conflict of interest on the field as a whole, and presented key results from two recent qualitative studies of (1) health-care providers practicing DBS and (2) North American functional neurosurgeons, on this topic. In the "Neuroethics" session we were presented with three very different talks spanning the globe (Nozomi Mizushima, Ryan Darby, Tom Buller). From Japan, Nozomi Mizushima, presented the framework being explored in a project examining researcher initiated benchside ethics consultation in the research and development of brain machine interfaces (BMIs). As their results suggest, this approach can help researchers deal with ethical concerns at an individual project level. However the ethical issues associated with such projects are embedded in a larger context of technologies, ethics and society which may not be captured by this mechanism.

Other panels also touched on issues important to our own research. A presentation by Rashmi Kumar Sharma about patient and caregiver preferences in decision making revealed that discrepancies can exist in the ways that patients and family members conceive of what patient preferences are for family involvement in medical decision-making. This has obvious impacts for our understanding of how substituted and best-interest decision-making take place. Talks like these were punctuated by powerful plenary lec-

tures by Eva F. Kittay, Guadalupe Xochitl Ayala and Anne Basting. Basting offered a particularly delightful plenary lecture advocating for improved arts and creative engagement in patients with dementia. She sparked our imagination by presenting novel kinds of creative engagements being undertaken by researchers and communities to assist patients diagnosed with dementia and Alzheimer's disease. We should not take for granted the role that the arts (drama, music, literature) may play in caring for patients with dementia. In addition, these activities and their resulting works present poignant examples of the faces of Alzheimers. They may enhance the wellness of patients, and could aid in improving attitudes towards patients with dementia.

Ending this conference on a high note, we attended the Neuroethics Affinity Group meeting on Saturday night hosted by Kelly Dineen (dineenkk@slu.edu). This chance to interact with colleagues who share common interests is always a highlight of the ASBH meeting. To begin, Judy Illes and Daofen Chen gave an overview of funding opportunities for research in the field of neuroethics. Then the group engaged in a lively discussion revolving around the issue of psychiatric neurosurgery. The diversity of perspectives brought up by colleagues in neuroethics demonstrates how an interdisciplinary approach is conducive to tackling ethical and social issues.

Finally, a good way to leave a productive meeting, is with the announcement of another! Dr. Eric Racine announced that Brain Matters 2, an international neuroethics conference, will take place May 26-27th, 2011 in Montreal, Québec Canada (www.brainmatters2.com). Plenary speakers already confirmed are Joseph Fins, Judy Illes, Carl Elliott, Wayne Hall, Irving Kirsch and Martha Farah. The conference will open soon for general abstracts; hope to see you all there!



Neuroscience and Public Policy Program at The University of Wisconsin-Madison

by Chelsea Ott



The Neuroscience and Public Policy Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is the only one of its kind in the United States. It allows students to receive their Ph.D in Neuroscience and a Master of Public Affairs degree, with an emphasis on science and technology policy. The program is founded on the belief that "sound science and technology policy is essential for the well being of society and a step toward ensuring such policy is to train future scientists who are educated in the making of public policy and are prepared to participate in doing so."

I spoke with fourth year student, Lindsay Pascal, about her experience with this program and she said she chose this program because it, "[allows] me to explore my policy interests without sacrificing a traditional neuroscience research path. And because I am enrolled in the public policy and neuroscience tracks concurrently, I'm able to integrate these fields and network more thoroughly than if I were to enroll in tandem." Additionally, Lindsay said, "I want to encourage students to think outside of their laboratory box and ask questions about the large-scale, public implications of their neuroscience research. This type of training will provide society with a group of dually-trained experts who are eager to formulate and guide science policy that's backed by rational neuroscience research."

Lindsay echoes the unique sentiment of the program's mission when asked how she envisioned this program would help society. "You'll often be hard-pressed to find scientists with both an interest in and experience with navigating the policy world. This is unfortunate because a scientist's pragmatic nature and training can greatly benefit policy formulation and analysis. Therefore, I think one of the major ways this program could help society is by providing the opportunity for those students interested in both scientific and policy fields to cultivate their interests and develop critical skills they would otherwise have little opportunity to do."

Lindsay believes this dynamic combination of study is exciting because "my public policy courses provide an opportunity for me consider how my own neuroscience research can be applied outside of the laboratory." That is why this program is so important, because it examines, "the challenges of real-world issues" that extend beyond the lab and have far reaching societal effects.

For more information on this program please see <http://www.npp.wisc.edu/>

Special thanks to Lindsay Pascal and Ronald Kalil for their help in formulating this piece.

Programs in Ethics and Brain Sciences (PEBS) News Roundup

The Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics has a Programs in Ethics and Brain Sciences News Roundup at the end of each week with links to hot new articles, from both academic literature and popular press. Be sure to check it out! <http://www.bioethicsinstitute.org/web/page/769/sectionid/767/pagelevel/2/interior.asp>

Send in items to our Job Section of the NS Website

Send in help wanted positions, student fellowships, and any other positions that may be of interest to our membership. Simply send your posting to administrator@neuroethicssociety.org and we will post it to the following [link](#).

International Neuroethics Network (INN) Updates

Angie Kehagia, Incoming INN Manager

NEUROETHICS AT THE HISPANIOLA SCHOOL FOR NEUROSCIENCE: TRAUMA AND NERVOUS SYSTEM

Neuroethics was one of the key topics at the IBRO Hispaniola School of Neuroscience: Trauma and Nervous System, held in Santiago de los Caballeros in the Dominican Republic from 30th September to 9th October 2010. The school, directed by Dr. Gladys Maestre (University of Zulia/Columbia University) and attended by 16 medical professionals and students from Haiti, was held 9 months after the devastating earthquake of January 2010 that caused hundreds of thousands of deaths and widespread damage across the country. The 10-day course focused on the neuroscience of trauma, and spanned basic neuron physiology to principles of systems neuroscience and trauma treatment with a strong emphasis on research methodology.

Neuroethics teaching took place during the second half of the school. Dr. Angie Kehagia (University of British Columbia) gave a lecture entitled "Neuroethics Issues and Methods: Ethical, Legal, Social and Policy Challenges" that introduced the philosophical discipline of ethics and principles of bioethics, and went on to define the field of neuroethics. The theme of trauma-related mental illness in Haiti was used to illustrate research methodology in empirical neuroethics, beginning with the identification of key issues and



themes, and concluding with specific methods by which these research questions could be addressed.

This lecture was followed up by a practicum, in which the students were allocated to 3 focus groups. Each group identified a single neuroethical issue which became the subsequent topic of semi-structured discussion. The focus group findings were presented to the rest of the students and faculty. Parallel ongoing conversations and debates of neuroethical issues arose each day during the lectures and student-led fora. Ultimately, the resonance of pragmatic neuroethics with the neuroschool participants reaffirmed its significance in the context of the real-world challenges that Haiti faces today.



If you have any questions or comments please visit the INN website at www.neuroethics.ubc.ca/ [INN](#) or contact Janice Matautia at matautia@interchange.ubc.ca.

Neuroethics Event Calendar

Please check our website for the most up-to-date listings. Share your event with us at administrator@neuroethicssociety.org

November 5-6 The Difference between the Sexes - From Biology to Behaviour Heidelberg, Germany. The 11th EMBL/EMBO Science and Society Conference. More information available at http://www.embl.de/training/courses_conferences/conference/2010/SNS10-01/programme/index.html

November 11-12 Neuroethics Society Annual Meeting San Diego, CA. See cover story and <http://www.neuroethicssociety.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=115735&orgId=ns>

Nov 13-17 Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting San Diego. See http://www.sfn.org/am2010/index.aspx?pagename=preliminary_program for more information. This meeting will be featuring many events of relevance to neuroethics including:

Nov 13 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Dialogues between Neuroscience and Society: Bringing Change to Mind on Mental Illness G. CLOSE

Nov 13 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Ethical and Policy Issues Poster Session

Nov 14 1:00 - 3:00 PM Social Issues Roundtable - Child Poverty and Human Capital: New Insights from Neuroscience - M. J. Farah, chair

Nov 15 10:00 - 11:10 AM The Neuroscience Revolution and Society - H. T. GREELY

Nov 16 6:45 - 8:45 PM Neuroethics Social: Psychopharmacology: Treatment and Lifestyle Drug Use - B. J. Sahakian, chair

November 17-19 6th World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health and Prevention of Mental and Behavioral Disorders Washington, DC. See http://www.sfn.org/am2010/index.aspx?pagename=preliminary_program for more information about this conference.

November 22-26 Expanding the Frontiers of Neuroethics Buenos Aires, Argentina. The course consists of one week of intensive lectures and discussions, with 30 participants from around the world. This course in Neuroethics will be interesting and useful for a varied group of students and professionals working in differ-

November 26 The Ethical Interface between Psychology, Neuroscience and the Law UCL Institute of Child Health, London [The British Psychological Society Division of Neuropsychology](#) Post-Qualification day on the Ethical Interface between psychology, neuroscience and the law brings together experts who deal with neuroethical questions on a daily basis. The experience they bring from the fields of neuropsychology, neurology, neuroscience and the law will provide insight into the neuroethical questions faced by all those who work with individuals with acquired brain injury. http://www.gosh.nhs.uk/careers/education/short_courses/courses/2S-39

December 2-3 Translational Issues in BCI Development: User Needs, Ethics, and Technology Transfer Rome, Italy. <http://www.tobi-project.org/TOBI-workshop-2/>

December 3-4 "Transforming Humanity: Fantasy? Dream? Nightmare?" University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. This event suggests three of the main approaches that have been taken in addressing human enhancements, namely that it is unrealistic to expect significant changes to human nature through enhancements, that significant changes are both possible and desirable, and that significant changes are possible but are highly undesirable. We invite papers from all academic disciplines that address any aspect of the conference theme, especially where scientific and technological breakthroughs may call for novel approaches to dealing with human transformation. Scheduled Speakers: Allen Buchanan (Duke), Arthur Caplan (Penn), Martha Farrah (Penn), Ronald Lindsay (CFI), Maxwell Mehlman (Case Western), Jonathan Moreno (Penn), Rosemarie Tong (UNC-Charlotte). <http://www.centerforinquiry.net/research/conferences/>

December 7-8 Neurological Futures: Speculation, Value and Promissory Hope in the Bioeconomy James Martin Institute, Oxford University.

December 10 Ethics, Health Care and Anthropology University of Amsterdam. www.medical-anthropology.nl

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

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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. 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 for more information

May 26-27 *International Neuroethics Conference: Brain Matters II* Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Ethics in Translation of Neuroscience and Research to Psychiatric and Neurological Care. For more information please contact Neuroethics@irqm.qc.ca

Submit your events to
administrator@neuroethicssociety.org

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Neuroethics Society

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.

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 We look forward to hearing from you!

