

# Year in Review 2018

International Neuroethics Society



INS International  
Neuroethics  
Society







## Message from the President

I was honored to become President of the International Neuroethics Society in November 2017 and to have a chance to build on the excellent work of my predecessors, Judy Illes, Barbara Sahakian, and Steve Hyman.

I set out three goals for my two years as President:

- To increase opportunities in the Society for INS members
- To boost the public role of the INS in discussions, scholarly and public, of neuroethics and
- To increase INS membership.

I am pleased to report that we have increased the opportunities for members to take part in the Society's activities with new committees and task forces. We have reached out to the public through, for example, our public event at the Annual Meeting on 'My Brain Made Me Buy It? The Neuroethics of Advertising' and our essay competition in which our members were invited to write for the lay reader.

Building our membership, however, has been a little more challenging. Neuroethics is in some ways a niche field but with advances in brain research raising ever more social and ethical dilemmas, it is vital that scientists, philosophers and clinicians become involved.

I am eager to get more regional INS meetings, giving opportunities for members to get together apart from the one annual meeting and to spread the word about neuroethics. We have made good progress here in 2018 with events in Oxford, UK; Milwaukee, USA; and Sydney, Australia. We have been developing new partnerships with other like-minded organizations and participating in conferences around the world.

The INS Annual Meeting is our flagship event, one that brings together the majority of our members to discover more about neuroethics and share their own knowledge and expertise with colleagues. Under the theme of 'Cutting Edge Neuroscience, Cutting Edge Neuroethics,' the 2018 Annual Meeting was held in San Diego in November and was, in my view, our most successful meeting yet.

Finally, I ask you please to work with us to help make the INS even better in 2019 as the world's center for research, education, public communication, and discussion of the many addictively fascinating issues of neuroethics!

Hank Greely  
INS President

# International Neuroethics Society

We are a group of scholars, scientists, clinicians and other professionals who share an interest in the social, legal, ethical and policy implications of advances in neuroscience.

In recent years we have seen unprecedented progress in the basic sciences of mind and brain and in the treatment of psychiatric and neurologic disorders. Now, neuroscience plays an expanding role in human life beyond the research lab and clinic. In classrooms, courtrooms, offices and homes around the world, neuroscience is giving us powerful new tools for achieving our goals and prompting a new understanding of ourselves as social, moral and spiritual beings.

**The mission of the International Neuroethics Society is to encourage and inspire research and dialogue on the responsible use of advances in brain science.** To accomplish our mission we:

- **Exchange knowledge** among scientists, ethicists, medical professionals, lawyers and judges, educators, policy makers and other stakeholders
- **Forge connections** and collaborations across scientific disciplines, business sectors, government agencies and non-government institutions
- **Enable education**, training and mentoring opportunities to strengthen neuroethics
- **Engage in public forums** and discussions with citizens, journalists and experts

## Membership

Members of the INS include leading experts and early career professionals in the fields of neuroscience, law, philosophy, medicine, business, government and other areas. As an international organization, the INS is always keen to grow our membership and reach new people around the world who have an interest in and are dedicated to the responsible use of advances in brain science.

The INS works to forge connections and initiate dialogue among members and practitioners from different disciplines, most notably through in-person and virtual events, projects led by INS committees and task forces, and the dissemination of information and opportunities through email newsletters and social media channels.

To members we offer exclusive benefits, including:

- Support for meetings organized by members or partners
- Reduced registration fees for the INS Annual Meeting
- Participation in invite-only events
- Advice and mentoring opportunities
- Discounts on neuroethics books
- Discounted subscriptions to *AJOB Neuroscience* (official journal of the INS)
- Joint membership discounts (British Neuroscience Association)
- Membership discounts for groups

***Tell your colleagues about the INS and encourage them to join!***

# Highlights

## Brain-Computer Interface Society Meeting

May 2018; Asilomar, CA, USA – A special session on neuroethics was held, titled ‘Ethical Issues in BCI Research and Development: Recognition and Response.’ There was also a neuroethics workshop on ‘Examining Ethical Assumptions About Neural Engineering and BCI Development.’ Judy Illes was a speaker at both sessions which were well-received.

## International Congress of Applied Psychology

June 2018; Montreal, QB, Canada – Judy Illes and Eric Racine led a workshop on the ‘Social, Ethical and Clinical Implications on Developments in Neuroscience.’ ICAP18 was hosted by the International Association of Applied Psychology and was attended by about 4,000 delegates.

## Human Brain Organoids: the Science, the Ethics

June 2018; Oxford, UK – The ‘Human Brain Organoids’ symposium, co-hosted with the Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities at the University of Oxford, was a great success, attracting twice the number of delegates we expected. The speakers included Hank Greely (Stanford University), Julian Savulescu (University of Oxford) and Madeline Lancaster (University of Cambridge), and was chaired by Hannah Maslen (University of Oxford). Talks were followed by two parallel break-out discussion sessions, one on the science and one on the ethics of organoids. A film which included interviews with the speakers and lectures was produced and sponsored by the European Dana Alliance for the Brain, and an article summarized the symposium. The film and article were published on the INS website and circulated to delegates and wider groups at the University of Oxford.



## FENS Forum of European Neuroscience Societies

July 2018; Berlin, Germany – At the FENS Forum in Berlin, attended by more than 7,500 international delegates, INS Board members Tom Insel and Helen Mayberg gave plenary lectures and were interviewed extensively by the media. Judy Illes also hosted a networking reception to introduce neuroscientists to the INS. More than 50 people attended the reception.

## Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

September 2018; Shanghai, China – Together with the China National Center for Biotechnology Development and Tongji University, the OECD organized an international workshop titled ‘Minding Neurotechnology: Delivering Responsible Innovation for Health and Well-Being.’ It brought together neuroscientists, neuroethicists, and neuroengineers, as well as representatives from neurotechnology companies, major brain initiatives, investors, insurers and policy makers. Several INS members participated in the workshop.

## Neuroethics Essay Contest

Each year the INS holds an essay contest open to students and postdocs to promote interest in neuroethics. The winner of the science communication essay category was Jean Ngoc Boulware (University of Chicago) for her essay titled, 'Not Our Problem? The Neuroethical Implications of Youth Detainment.' Elizabeth M. Ingram (North Carolina State University) won the award in the academic category for her essay on 'Personhood: Projection or Perception?'

## Neuroethics Training

The Federation for European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) has a comprehensive series of training programs for neuroscientists. In June 2018, Hank Greely gave a lecture at the Summer School in Bertinoro, Italy. In July 2018, FENS confirmed that they will include neuroethics in its training courses. (<https://www.fens.org/training/>)

The International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) also holds a series of global training programs, significantly in Latin America, Asia-Pacific, Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Members of the INS are on a task force to develop a curriculum whereby neuroethics is integrated into the training programs.



**Helen Mayberg**, INS Board member and Professor of Neurotherapeutics at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (USA), pictured between Hank Greely and Judy Illes, was the 2018 recipient of the *Steven E. Hyman Award for Distinguished Service to the Field of Neuroethics*.

## Annual Meeting

The INS hosted a wildly successful annual meeting in San Diego this past November which convened 150 delegates, at all stages of their careers, from 15 countries to present their research, exchange expertise, and network. Attendees presented 45 research posters and 7 authors gave oral presentations over the 2-day conference. The INS annual meeting provides a rare opportunity for neuroscientists, psychologists, psychiatrists, philosophers and ethicists to gather and generates a rare opportunity to explore different aspects of their disciplines.

The program was built around the theme 'Cutting Edge Neuroscience, Cutting Edge Neuroethics' and included a wide range of engaging sessions and insightful speakers. Current issues in neuroethics were discussed as part of panel discussions on:

- 'DBS: Continuity of Self?'
- 'Genetics, Behavior, and Society,' and
- 'Brain Surrogates: Perceptions and Reality.'



Also among the highlights were plenary lectures on:

- 'Digitally Decoding Brain and Behavior' by Tom Insel, INS Board member and President of Mindstrong Health (pictured top)
- 'Managing Neuroinformation, Protecting Identity' by the rising star plenary lecturer Emily Postan, University of Edinburgh (middle)
- 'Values, Science, and Public Policy Toward the Opioid Epidemic' by Keith Humphries, Stanford University (bottom)



Each year the INS works with partners to host a public program for meeting attendees and the local community. Previous events have featured talks on the safety of American football, robots in society, and neurogaming. Members of the public attended the 2018 program on 'My Brain Made Me Buy It? The Neuroethics of Advertising,' organized in partnership with the Center for Ethics in Science and Technology and featuring a talk by Carl Marci of Nielsen Consumer Neuroscience.



We are grateful to the following sponsors for their generous support of the Society and the annual meeting.

- The Dana Foundation
- Janssen Neuroscience
- Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research at Broad Institute
- The Kavli Foundation
- Taylor & Francis
- Nielsen Consumer Neuroscience
- Center for Ethics in Science and Technology



And thanks to the following donors, we were able to award 13 travel grants totaling more than \$7,000 (USD) to early career attendees presenting and receiving recognition for their work. The grant funds from the International Brain Research Organization enabled the INS to specifically provide travel support to researchers from under-resourced countries to attend.

- International Brain Research Organization
- Institut de Recherches Cliniques de Montréal
- International Neuroethics Society
- Neuroethics Canada
- Michael Patterson
- Mark Frankel
- Anonymous

The following publishers donated prizes for top abstracts and posters.

- Elsevier
- Oxford University Press
- Springer

Additional Supporters

- Duke Science & Society
- IEEE Brain Initiative
- Penn Center for Neuroscience & Society



## Partnerships

In 2018, we increased our activities in partnership with other like-minded organizations and we participated in a number of conferences around the world to spread the word about neuroethics. Below is a summary of partnerships:

**Bristol Neuroscience (UK)** – The INS had a poster at the 2018 Bristol Neuroscience Festival.

**Cambridge Neuroscience** – Neuroethics was featured in a seminar on the ‘Neuroscience of Belief.’

**European Dana Alliance for the Brain** – The INS co-sponsored a symposium on organoids at the University of Oxford with the European Dana Alliance for the Brain.

**Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS)** – Neuroethics is being integrated into FENS training programs. Hank Greely gave the first neuroethics lecture at the FENS Summer School in Bertinoro, Italy. The INS is an affiliate member of FENS.

**Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers: Brain** – Representatives of INS and IEEE Brain agreed to provide guidance on areas of mutual interest including a document on neurotechnology to be revised and updated.

**International Brain Research Organization** – INS and IBRO are members of each other’s organizations, and as such, Judy Illes is on the Governing Council of IBRO. Work is underway to integrate a neuroethics curriculum into IBRO’s training programs, and IBRO provided travel funds for INS meeting attendees from under-resourced countries.

**International Youth Neuroscience Association** – INS and INYA began collaborating on activities of interest to young neuroscientists focusing on neuroethics.

**Neurotechnology Industry Organization** – The INS and the NIO collaborated to advise on the potential of neurotechnology. (The NIO has now closed.)

**NeuroTechX** – NeuroTechX hosted a webinar on the ‘Ethics of Neurotechnology’ which featured INS President Hank Greely.

**New York Academy of Sciences** – INS was a promotional partner for a public event on ‘The Enhanced Human.’

## Conferences 2018

### **Royal College of Psychiatrists Neuroscience Project**

April 2018; Cambridge, UK – INS Board members Steve Hyman and Barbara Sahakian gave plenary lectures at its conference.

### **BCIs: Not Getting Lost in Translation**

May 2018; Asilomar, CA, USA – Immediate INS Past-President Judy Illes gave a plenary lecture and co-hosted a special neuroethics session and chaired a workshop at the meeting organized by the Brain-Computer Interface Society.

### **Human Brain Organoids: the Science, the Ethics**

June 2018; Oxford, UK – INS and the University of Oxford collaborated on a 1-day symposium.

### **International Congress of Applied Psychology**

June 2018; Montreal, QB, Canada – Judy Illes and Eric Racine lead a workshop on the ‘Social, Ethical and Clinical Implications on Developments in Neuroscience.’

### **Is Biology Destiny? The Ethics of Personal Identity Alteration**

June 2018; Milwaukee, WI, USA – INS Board members Jennifer Chandler and Joseph J. Fins gave keynote lectures at this meeting organized by Fabrice Jotterand and supported by the INS.

### **FENS 2018**

June and July 2018; Bertinoro, Italy and Berlin, Germany – Hank Greely gave a lecture at the Summer School in Italy and Judy Illes hosted a neuroethics reception at FENS Forum of European Neuroscience in Berlin.

### **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development**

September 2018; Shanghai, China – At a workshop on ‘Minding Neurotechnology: Delivering Responsible Innovation for Health and Well-Being,’ INS speakers included Tom Insel, Judy Illes, Marcello Ienca, Laura Cabrera, Karen Rommelfanger and Adrian Carter. (Some pictured below)

### **Australian Research Council**

September 2018; Sydney, Australia – The Neuroethics Program for the Centre of Excellence for Integrative Brain Function held a public panel discussion, titled ‘Brave New Brains,’ on the ethics of brain computer interfaces. Speakers included INS members Hannah Maslen and Eric Racine.

### **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers**

October 2018; Miyazaki, Japan – INS President Hank Greely gave a lecture on neuroethics.





# The Year Ahead: 2019

## **International Neuropsychological Society Annual Meeting**

February 2019; New York City, NY, USA – Judy Illes will give a plenary titled ‘Advances in Neurotechnology for Neurocognition: Balancing on the Tightrope of Discovery, Treatment, and Translation,’ and is leading a symposium titled ‘Neurotechnology for Neuropsychology in Egypt, Nepal and Canada: Perspectives, Intersections and Opportunities.’

## **British Neuroscience Association Festival of Neuroscience**

April 2019; Dublin, Ireland – With the British Association of Psychopharmacology, the INS is co-hosting a symposium on ‘Mental Illness in Children and Adolescents: Neuroscience, Ethics and Practice in Psychopharmacology.’ There will also be a public event on the same topic, titled ‘Young Minds Matter: How to Support Young People’s Mental Health.’

## **Italian Neuroethics Society**

May 2019; Milan, Italy – The Italian Neuroethics Society will partner with the INS for their annual conference.

## **Neurotechnology for High Consequence Communication and Decision-Making**

June 2019; Toronto, Canada – The INS and neurotechnology company Cognixion are co-hosting a 1-day conference to bring together experts from industry and academia to discuss neurotechnology relating to health, crime, civil and disability rights, and what the future holds for neurotechnology.

## **International Brain Research Organization World Congress**

September 2019; Daegu, South Korea – Judy Illes will give a neuroethics plenary lecture.

## **2019 Annual Meeting of the International Neuroethics Society**

October 2019; Chicago, IL, USA – The INS will convene leading experts and early career professionals in the field of neuroethics for a 2-day event held as a satellite of the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting.



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*\* Term ended in 2018*

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## Financial Statement

Funding for the INS comes from membership, grants and donations. We are indebted to The Dana Foundation for their continued support of operating expenses for the INS. We thank the following sponsors and donors in 2018:

- The Dana Foundation
- Janssen Neuroscience
- Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research at Broad Institute
- The Kavli Foundation
- Taylor & Francis
- Nielsen Consumer Neuroscience
- The Center for Ethics in Science and Technology

The International Neuroethics Society (INS) was designated a nonprofit organization under the provisions of 501 (c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code in December 2008.

As a nonprofit organization, the INS must meet public support of 33 1/3% each year. From 23.25% in 2014, increasing each year to 32.95% in 2017, the leadership and members of the INS are committed to bringing the Society into compliance with the Internal Revenue Service Safe Harbor test.

As we continue our mission to encourage and inspire research and dialogue on the responsible use of advances in brain science, we were pleased to be able to provide support for regional meetings organized by INS members or partner organizations in the United States, Australia and Argentina in 2018. We also provided travel stipends ranging in value from \$250 to \$1100 (USD) to researchers to attend the 2018 INS Annual Meeting.

Opportunities for individuals, institutions and commercial companies are available to support the mission of the INS. Your involvement will make a difference. The INS recognizes support—financial and in-kind—on our website and in publications or programs, whenever appropriate.

***Contact Karen Graham, Executive Director ([kgraham@neuroethicssociety.org](mailto:kgraham@neuroethicssociety.org)) to discuss programming, outreach and support. We look forward to working with you!***



### **International Neuroethics Society**

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