

# Annual Meeting 2019

International Neuroethics Society  
October 17-18, 2019  
Chicago, IL, USA



Pictured: Caroline E. Anderson, Shikhar S. Gupta, Armani Porter, INS President Nita Farahany, Deniz Arıturk and William L. D. Krenzer (Duke University)





## Overview

“Meet me in Chicago,” as the song goes, and scientists, clinicians, and students did just that for the 2019 Annual Meeting of the International Neuroethics Society. Early career researchers and senior academics alike from a variety of disciplines and from 17 countries gathered to share their science and insights with their global colleagues.

This year the theme was ‘Mapping Neuroethics: An Expanded Vision’ with the specific aim of bringing new content to the meeting from scholars in countries that have not been well represented at previous neuroethics events.

The 2-day program was packed with lectures and panel discussions. Young scholars showcased their research as part of oral and poster presentations covering topics from moral enhancement to neuroimaging data.

The value of networking cannot be under-estimated and the program provided opportunities for INS members and others working in the fields of neuroscience, philosophy, and law to meet informally throughout the day and during evening activities.

## 2019 Program Committee

### Co-chairs

- Ilina Singh, University of Oxford (UK)
- Arleen Salles, Uppsala University (Sweden)

### Members

- Adrian Carter, Monash University (Australia)
- Jennifer Chandler, University of Ottawa (Canada)
- Hannah Maslen, University of Oxford (UK)
- Roland Nadler, University of British Columbia (Canada)
- Anna Wexler, University of Pennsylvania (USA)
- Paul Root Wolpe, Emory University (USA)

### Staff

- Karen Graham, INS Executive Director
- Robert Beets, INS Communications Director

**“There was little sense of hierarchy, and instead raw curiosity and interest — with a brilliant balance of expertise.”**  
**Meeting attendee**

## Message from the Immediate Past President

This year's annual meeting in Chicago was tremendous! More than 160 people attended: people of all ages and stages of their careers in neuroscience, philosophy, psychology, law — but whatever their profession, they all had one interest in common: neuroethics. It was great to see everyone animated in informal conversation, in rigorous discussions during the panel sessions, and their eager participation during the posters.

'Mapping Neuroethics: An Expanded Vision' was the theme of this year's INS annual meeting. What does that mean? Well, the Program Committee co-chairs, Professor Ilina Singh (UK) and Professor Arleen Salles (Sweden) and their committee members put a major emphasis on inclusion, diversity, and culture to create an INS meeting that truly represented the international nature of our Society.

The 'Expanded Vision' enabled people to listen to different cultural priorities that can shed new light on a subject, examining it from another point of view and solving problems.

My special thanks go to the Program Committee who worked tirelessly for several months to put together a stimulating program of talks and sessions. We are also enormously grateful to our sponsors without whom this conference would not be possible.

The INS is the only global association that focuses on neuroethics. Therefore it plays an important role in generating dialogue on responsible research and use of advances in brain sciences. The annual meeting is our flagship event where international membership and audiences can meet face-to-face. We urge people to join the INS and help make it bigger and better.

My term of office has now come to an end, and at the annual meeting I handed over the presidency to Nita Farahany, Professor of Law & Philosophy at Duke Law School. Nita will bring new ideas to take the INS forward. I wish her every success and eagerly anticipate the 2020 INS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.



Hank Greely  
Immediate Past President

**"We wanted to see how the cultural aspect played out, interacting with people with other insights. We also put a lot of emphasis on giving a voice to early career researchers."**  
Arleen Salles, Program Committee co-chair



Andreas Wolkenstein, LMU Munich





## Participants

Thank you to everyone who joined us for two days in Chicago. We had a great turnout with over 160 attendees from 17 countries. Notably, there were 68 exceptional poster presentations and the Program Committee awarded 21 travel stipends and 13 book prizes to authors thanks to the generous support from our sponsors and supporters.

## Plenary Speakers

We were honored that the following distinguished academics accepted our invitation to deliver plenary lectures at the annual meeting. Visit the [meeting highlights](#) and [program](#) webpages for additional information about the speakers, the content of their lectures, and supporting resources and reading materials.

### *Fred Kavli Distinguished Neuroethics Lecture*

#### **Martha J. Farah**

Center for Neuroscience & Society  
University of Pennsylvania

Her lecture, titled 'Socioeconomic status and brain development: from science to policy,' examined how poverty affects the cognitive capacities of the poor, and spoke generally about the impact of socioeconomic status on the mental health and cognitive abilities of people at different income levels.



### *Opening Plenary*

#### **Matthew L. Baum**

Harvard Medical School

In his lecture titled 'The neuroethics of biomarkers,' Baum talked about how variations in genes, molecules in the blood, and anything you can measure can predict things like cognitive decline and psychotic episodes. He also discussed what obligations there are, and on whom, for this predictive technology in medicine and law.



## Public Program

Each year the INS collaborates with partners to host a public program for the local community. Previous events have featured talks on robots in society, neurogaming, and the neuroethics of advertising.

'Should we trust technology to provide mental health care?' was the subject of this year's public program organized in partnership with Northwestern University, and sponsored by Wellcome. The panel discussed how smartphone apps, social media, the internet, and digital technology are transforming mental health care. The big question we asked: what is lost and what is gained as we turn to digital mental health?

### Speakers

- David C. Mohr, Northwestern University (USA)
- Ilina Singh, University of Oxford (UK)
- Nicole Martinez-Martin, Stanford School of Medicine (USA)
- Moderated by Kelly Michelson, Northwestern University (USA)

### Support

This event is organized by the INS and Northwestern University, and sponsored by Wellcome.

The INS strives to organize an inclusive scientific program with a diverse representation of disciplines, viewpoints, and personal backgrounds of contributors. Financial support is essential to ensure the INS can invite expert speakers from around the world.



**“The Annual Meeting is interdisciplinary, increasingly attracting people from law, engineering and psychology. And it’s fun — we are still a small community and we have a good time together!”**  
Ilina Singh, Program Committee co-chair



Nicole Martinez-Martin, Ilina Singh and David C. Mohr

## Panel Discussions

### Ethics and the imprisoned brain

As researchers begin to investigate techniques for altering inmates' brains to rid prisons of what Anthony Burgess called 'the ultra-violence,' the ongoing neuroethics discourse about biological approaches to criminal justice takes on renewed urgency. Speakers addressed the promise and peril of neurointerventions for incarcerated persons, whether in research and development or implementation and oversight.

- Olivia Choy, Nanyang Technological University / University of Pennsylvania (Singapore/ United States)
- Farah Focquaert, Ghent University (Belgium)
- Andrés Molero-Chamizo, University of Huelva (Spain)
- Jan Christoph Bublitz, University of Hamburg (Germany)
- Moderated by Roland Nadler, University of British Columbia (Canada)

### Preclinical interventions in psychiatric and neurological disorders

As we get better at using genetic, metabolic or behavioral biomarkers to predict future susceptibility for neurological and psychiatric syndromes, the problem of medical management of people in such preclinical states becomes more trenchant. Testing preventive drugs, informing patients or parents of risks, managing false positives, and treating patients with little discernible illness raise significant ethical questions that were discussed by this panel of experts.

- Caesar Atuire, University of Ghana (Ghana)
- Emily Largent, University of Pennsylvania (USA)
- Gabriela Pavarini, University of Oxford (UK)
- Moderated by Anna Wexler, University of Pennsylvania (USA)

### Disorders of consciousness: concepts, culture and prognosis

This session explored the importance of concepts when addressing disorders of consciousness. Speakers, pictured at right, discussed the cultural dimensions and ethical implications of selecting concepts, how concepts can impact practice protocol and medical decision-making, and the potential consequences of categorizing patients.



- Joseph J. Fins, Weill Cornell Medical College (USA)
- L. Syd M Johnson, Michigan Technological University (USA)
- Laura Specker Sullivan, College of Charleston (USA)
- Moderated by Hannah Maslen, University of Oxford (UK)



## **Incapable patients and psychiatric neurosurgery: what do law and ethics have to say?**

Many laws define psychosurgery to include deep brain stimulation (DBS) for psychiatric indications, a field under intensive exploration and expansion. This session considered the history, present, and future of the regulation of invasive psychiatric neuromodulation such as DBS, with particular attention to the questions of whether there is a need for specific law and what its optimal contents should be.

- Laura Cabrera, Michigan State University (USA)
- Eran Klein, Oregon Health & Science University / University of Washington (USA)
- Lauren Sankary, Cleveland Clinic (USA)
- Moderated by Jennifer Chandler, University of Ottawa (Canada)

## **Dilemmas in global neuroethics**

The existence of several national-level brain research initiatives and the priority given to investment in neuroscientific research make evident the importance of unveiling and reflecting on the values driving the research and of addressing the ethical, social, and philosophical issues raised by it. One goal of this session was to have panelists representing the different brain initiatives briefly address a few neuroethics issues, listed below, and identifying and highlighting important cultural aspects.

### *To what extent can human attributes be modeled?*

- Moderated by Tom Buller, Illinois State University (USA)
- Khara Ramos, National Institutes of Health (USA)
- Norihiro Sadato, National Institute for Physiological Sciences (Japan)

### *Beyond disease, what are aspirational applications?*

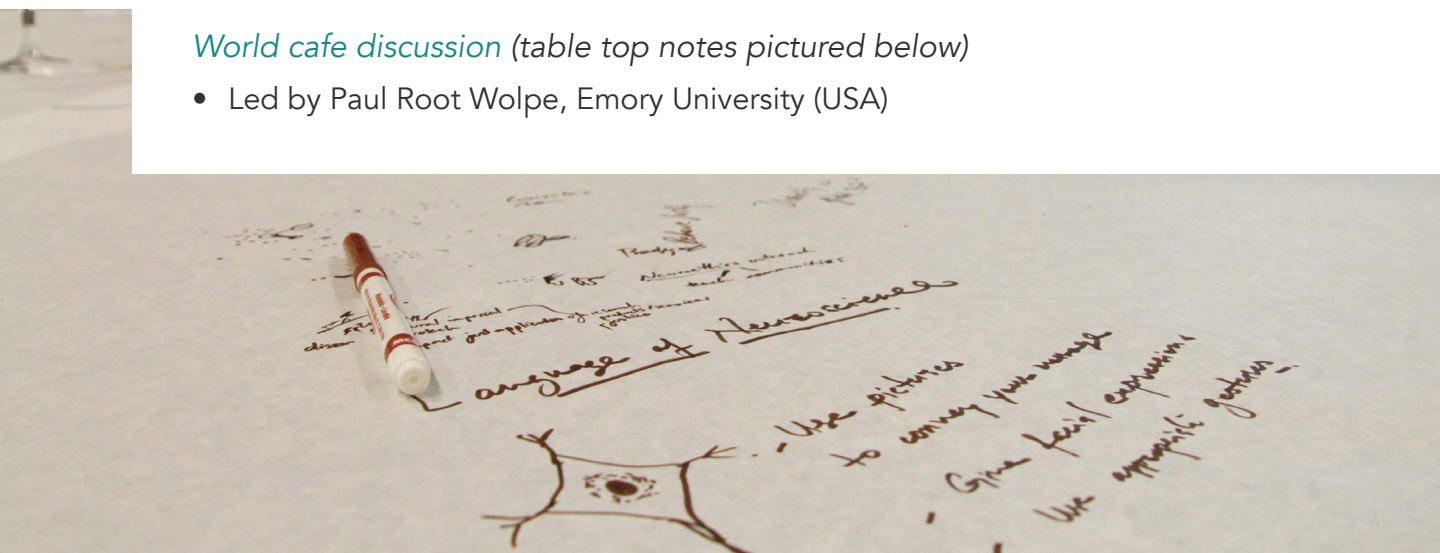
- Moderated by Marcello Ienca, ETH Zurich (Switzerland)
- Adrian Carter, Monash University (Australia)
- Arleen Salles, Uppsala University (Sweden)

### *Engaging neuroethics: what are the questions?*

- Moderated by Karen Rommelfanger, Emory University (USA)
- Judy Illes, University of British Columbia (Canada)
- Sung-Jin Jeong, Korea Brain Research Institute (South Korea)

### *World cafe discussion (table top notes pictured below)*

- Led by Paul Root Wolpe, Emory University (USA)





Steve Hyman, awardee Martha Farah, Hank Greely, Nita Farahany and Judy Illes

## Prizes and Recognitions

### Steven E. Hyman Award

Martha Farah, the Walter H. Annenberg Professor in Natural Sciences and professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, is the 2019 winner of the Steven E. Hyman Award for Distinguished Service to the Field of Neuroethics. Professor Farah was awarded the prize for her pioneering work on the link between poverty and children’s brain development.

*“I am grateful to the INS leadership who have done so much to advance the understanding of ethics in neuroscience. Their approval means a lot to me!” Martha Farah*

### Neuroethics Essay Contest

Each year the INS holds an essay contest for students and early career trainees. For the first time, the INS collaborated with the International Youth Neuroscience Association and offered a new submission category for high school student essays. The contest was supported by Dr. Michael Patterson, former editor of the *Kopf Carrier* and long-time supporter of neuroethics.

The standard of submissions was high and the 2019 winners in each of the following submission categories, with authors pictured at right, were:

#### Academic essay

- ‘CNS Intervention in the Courtroom: An Ethical Evaluation of the Rehabilitative Potential of SSRIs’ by **Khayla Black**, New York University Shanghai

#### Essay for a general audience

- ‘Growing Brains: Warnings from a Cell Line that Became Immortal’ by **Sunidhi Ramesh**, Sidney Kimmel Medical College

#### High school essay

- ‘The Right to Neurotechnology: Exploring the Government’s Role on Societal Stratification in the Future of Human Enhancement’ by **Prithvi Nathan**, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology





# Presentations and Recognitions

## Oral Abstract Presenters

The following authors delivered 15-minute oral presentations about their research:

- Timothy Brown, University of Washington (USA)
- Jayashree Dasgupta, Sangath (India)
- Ashwini Nagappan, University of Pennsylvania (USA)
- Armani Porter, Duke University (USA)
- Demetrio Sierra-Mercado, Baylor College of Medicine / University of Puerto Rico (USA)
- Andreas Wolkenstein, LMU Munich (Germany)

## Supporters

### *Sponsors*

- The Dana Foundation
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- Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research at Broad Institute
- Wellcome
- The Kavli Foundation
- Taylor & Francis
- Center for Neuroscience & Society, University of Pennsylvania
- Duke Science & Society

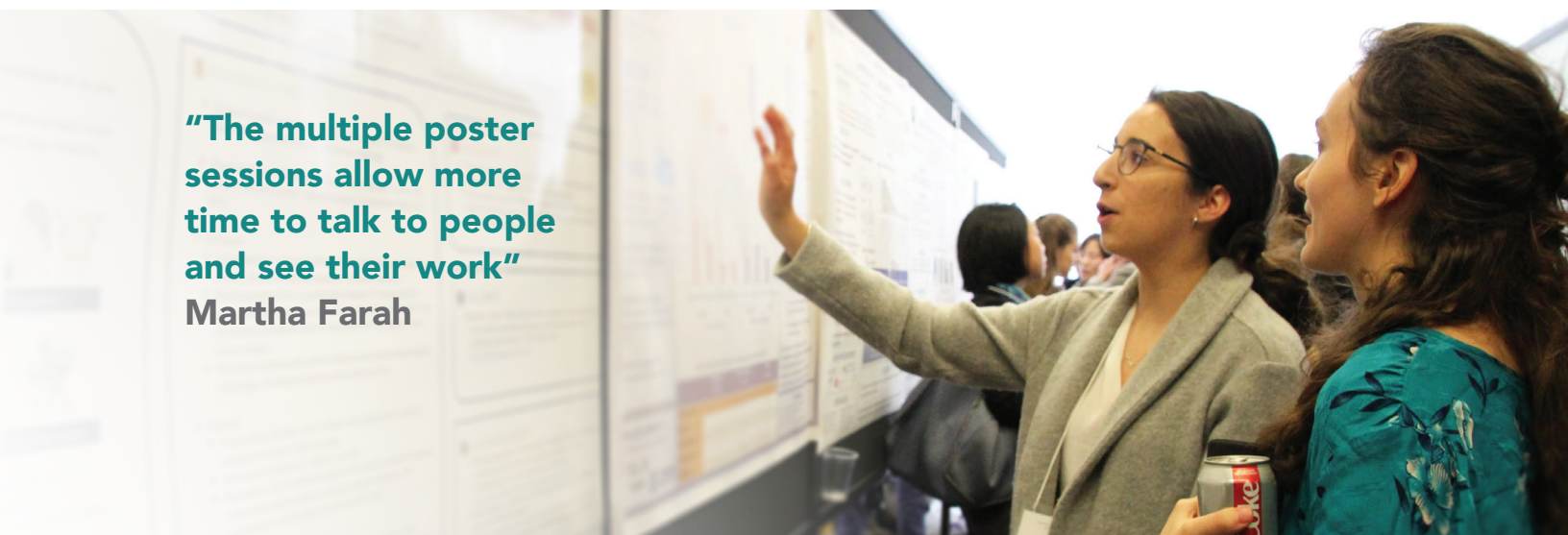
### *Stipend Contributors*

- James and Elisabeth Ewing
- Dr. Michael Patterson
- Anonymous
- Neuroethics Canada
- University of Pennsylvania Master of Bioethics
- Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health at Monash University
- Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities

### *Poster Prize Donors*

- Springer
- Elsevier
- Oxford University Press
- Veljko Dubljevic

**“The multiple poster sessions allow more time to talk to people and see their work”**  
**Martha Farah**



## Sponsorship Opportunities

The INS is a multidisciplinary organization of professionals in brain research, ethics, law, philosophy, anthropology, education, and other fields who are dedicated to addressing the challenges of new discoveries in the brain sciences and to training the current and future generation of innovators and entrepreneurs in this rapidly evolving landscape.

A task of this magnitude and importance requires the help and support of partners and sponsors. We can only carry our programs with the help of others who share our vision and commitment to excellence in research and innovation, informed decision-making for health and quality of life, and justice in society for people of all ages and cultures.

Opportunities are available to support the mission of the INS at individual and institutional levels. Your involvement will make a difference. Individuals and organizations can support the INS annual meeting, our flagship event. Visit the website and contact INS leadership to discuss potential partnership and sponsorship opportunities.

### **Karen Graham**

Executive Director

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INS President (2019-2021)

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