

Year in Review 2019

International Neuroethics Society



INS International
Neuroethics
Society

*Encouraging and inspiring research and dialogue
on the responsible use of advances in brain science*



Message from the Immediate Past President

What an exciting year for the INS! In 2019 we increased our reach, most notably with a conference on neurotechnology in Toronto, we co-sponsored and contributed top speakers to the annual meeting of the Italian Society for Neuroethics in Milan, and we participated in the British Neuroscience Association's Festival of Neuroscience in Dublin, Ireland.

We were thrilled by the high attendance at our annual meeting in Chicago in October (and the fact that it didn't snow!). The Program Committee, co-chaired by Ilina Singh (UK) and Arleen Salles (Sweden) put together an exceptional program of panel discussions, lectures, and poster sessions. It gave everyone the opportunity to contribute in some way. In fact, as one delegate commented: "There was little sense of hierarchy, and instead raw curiosity and interest — with a brilliant balance of expertise."

The INS strives to get young people excited about neuroethics. After all, they are the ones who will manage the implications of advances in neuroscience in the years to come. One way to inspire the next generation was to open our essay contest to high school students. The standard of their essays was extremely high.

The INS is the only global society that focuses on neuroethics. Therefore, it plays an important role in generating dialogue on responsible research and use of advances in brain sciences. We are urging people to join the INS and help make it bigger and better to expand the discussion.

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 ideas to take the INS forward in new and exciting ways. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as president.

I thank all those who have helped make this year a success, and I urge you all to work with us to help make the INS even better.

Hank Greely
Immediate Past President

About the INS

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.

Mission

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, 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

The number of members of the INS has remained steady at around 300 in recent years. Of these, approximately one-third are students and postdocs. As the INS is based in the United States, a majority of members are located in North America.

A significant and growing portion of the Society's membership is based in Europe, Asia, and other regions. As an international society, we are keen to reach new people, networks, and institutions located around the world.

We communicate with our members regularly about global neuroethics news, activities and events. Our website, social media channels, and an email newsletter sent every two weeks play an important role in building this community.

Benefits

Exclusive benefits for members include:

- Discounts on select neuroethics books
- Support for member-organized neuroethics meeting and events
- Joint membership discounts with the British Neuroscience Association
- Membership discounts for individuals part of a group or institution
- Reduced registration fees for the INS annual meeting
- Discounted subscriptions to AJOB Neuroscience, the official journal of the INS
- Bi-weekly newsletter with the latest neuroethics news
- Advice and mentoring opportunities
- Invitations to events

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

neuroethicssociety.org



Conferences and Events

Neuroethics Training

Federation of European Neuroscience Societies

The FENS Committee on Higher Education and Training now regularly includes neuroethics in their training programs. Accordingly at the Winter School in Austria on 'Neural Control of Instinctive and Innate Behaviour,' Marcello Lenca, ETH Zurich, gave a neuroethics lecture which was well-received, garnering many questions and stimulating a good discussion.

International Brain Research Organisation

Neuroethics training sessions have taken place in Nigeria, India and Nepal. Future events that will also include the training sessions are expected in China, Japan, Morocco, DRC, Bangladesh, and two Latin American countries to be determined. IBRO reported that this is a popular and useful initiative that presents different global perspectives and priorities.

Collaborations and Support

International Neuropsychological Society, New York, USA

The INS participated in the International Neuropsychological Society conference in New York for the first time in February. This conference attracted around 4,000 delegates. With standing room only for more than 2,000 delegates, Professor Judy Illes, past president of the INS gave a plenary lecture on 'Advances in Neurotechnology for Neurocognition: Balancing on the Tightrope of Discovery, Treatment, and Translation.' The lecture was followed by a symposium on 'Neurotechnology in Egypt, Nepal and Canada: perspectives, intersections and opportunities,' with speakers from each of these countries giving different perspectives on their use of neurotechnology.

NeuroTechX webinar, Canada

NeuroTechX is an international online community whose mission is to facilitate the advancement of neurotechnology. In December 2018 they hosted the first neuroethics webinar with INS President Hank Greely. In March, INS Board member Helen Mayberg spoke at a webinar on deep brain stimulation. The webinars were recorded and added to the NeuroTechX and INS websites.

British Neuroscience Association Festival of Neuroscience, Dublin, Ireland

In collaboration with the British Association for Psychopharmacology, the INS held a symposium in April on 'Mental Illness in Children and Adolescents: Neuroscience, Ethics and Practice in Psychopharmacology.' We also hosted a public event called 'Young Minds Matter: How to Support Young People's Mental Health.'



Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, Germany

INS supported a meeting in April on 'Artificial Intelligence, Neurotechnology and Brain Data: Ethical and Legal Aspects and Challenges for Research and Consumer Protection.'

Italian Neuroethics Society, Milan, Italy

In May, the INS collaborated with the Italian Society for Neuroethics on a session convened by INS President Hank Greely on new frontiers of the concept of brain death.

University of Cambridge, UK

CamBrain, the neuroscience network at the University of Cambridge, held a panel discussion in May on 'Cannabinoids and the Brain.' The event was moderated by Elaine Snell, INS Chief Operating Officer.

American Brain Coalition webinar, USA

INS Board member Paul Root Wolpe spoke in a webinar organized by the American Brain Coalition in May titled 'Neuroethics: The Responsible Use of Advances in Brain Science.'

Neurotechnology workshop, Toronto, Canada

A workshop in June titled 'Breaking Through: Neurotechnology for high consequence communication and decision-making' was organized by the INS in collaboration with Cognixion. Pictured at right, the event brought together experts in industry, academia, and law to learn about the benefits to people disadvantaged by disease, disability or injury, and to discuss the social and ethical implications of this type of neurotechnology relating to health, crime, and civil and disability rights.



King's College London, UK

High-school students and a group of university undergraduates attended a talk and interactive workshop on neuroethics in July.

IBRO World Congress, Daegu, Korea

INS Past President Judy Illes gave the Dana Neuroethics Lecture titled 'On the Ethics of Neuroethics in International Brain Research' in September.

INS Annual Meeting, Chicago, USA

The INS held its annual meeting in October as a satellite of the Society for Neuroscience conference. Themed 'Mapping Neuroethics: An Expanded Vision,' the event brought together a diverse group of researchers from around the world. (More information about the meeting is available on the next two pages.)



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

Annual Meeting 2019

We hosted the annual meeting in Chicago! Early career researchers and senior academics 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 represented well on the international stage.

The 2-day program, convened by the INS Program Committee and co-chairs Ilina Singh and Arleen Salles, was packed with lectures and panel discussions. Matt Baum, Harvard Medical School, and Martha Farah, University of Pennsylvania, gave plenary lectures.

Panelists and their audiences were challenged with ethical issues surrounding disorders of consciousness, the imprisoned brain, and preclinical interventions and neurosurgery for patients with psychiatric disorders.

Young scholars had time to showcase their research in poster presentations on topics covering key neuroethics issues 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 over lunch and during evening activities.

Sponsors and Contributors

We are grateful to our sponsors for their generous support:

- The Dana Foundation
- Janssen Neuroscience
- Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research at Broad Institute
- The Kavli Foundation
- Taylor & Francis
- Wellcome

We were able to award 21 travel stipends to 13 researchers thanks to the generosity of the following donors:

- 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



"Loved the program — a range of interesting topics, with both experienced leaders and younger professionals adding their expertise."



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

Prizes and Recognitions

Steven E. Hyman Award for Distinguished Service to the Field of Neuroethics

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, a world-leading cognitive neuroscientist, was awarded for her pioneering work on the link between poverty and children’s brain development.

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 was able to offer a new submission category for high school student essays. The standard of essays was high and the 2019 winners in each of the following submission categories were:

- ‘CNS Intervention in the Courtroom: An Ethical Evaluation of the Rehabilitative Potential of SSRIs’ by Khayla Black, New York University Shanghai (Academic Essay)
- ‘Growing Brains: Warnings from a Cell Line that Became Immortal’ by Sunidhi Ramesh, Sidney Kimmel Medical College (Essay for a General Audience)
- ‘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 (High School Essay)



Poster Presentations

Prizes for top posters at the INS annual meeting were donated by:

- Elsevier
- Oxford University Press
- Springer
- Veljko Dubljevic

Partners

Activities in partnership with other like-minded organizations, many described above, help to spread the word about neuroethics. Below is a summary of our ongoing partnerships.

American Brain Coalition

INS is a member of the American Brain Coalition to advance public advocacy. ABC hosts neuroethics webinars featuring INS Board members.

AJOB Neuroscience

The [American Journal of Bioethics – Neuroscience](#) is the official journal of INS.

British Association of Psychopharmacology

The INS co-hosted a symposium and a public event at the BNA Festival of Neuroscience 2019.

Brain Awareness Week

INS members participate in this annual awareness campaign of brain events.

British Neuroscience Association

INS participates in the association's annual Festival of Neuroscience. The INS also offers a 10% discount on membership fees to those who are members of the BNA.

Cambridge Neuroscience

Neuroethics was featured in a seminar on 'Cannabinoids and the Brain.'

Cognixion

INS and Cognixion co-hosted a workshop in Toronto titled 'Breaking Through: Neurotechnology for High-Consequence Communication and Decision-Making.'

The Dana Foundation

The Dana Foundation provides operating expenses to the INS.

Federation of European Neuroscience Societies

The INS is an affiliate member of FENS. As a result, neuroethics has been integrated into FENS training programs.

International Brain Research Organization

INS and IBRO are members of each other's organizations. As partners, neuroethics has been included in IBRO training programs.

IEEE Brain

Representatives of INS and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers collaborate on areas of mutual interest.

International Neuropsychological Society

There was a plenary lecture on neuroethics and a symposium at their event in New York.

International Youth Neuroscience Association

INS and INYA are collaborating on activities of interest to young neuroscientists who are focused on neuroethics, including the [Neuroethics Essay Contest](#).

The Neuroethics Blog

The [Neuroethics Blog](#) is the official blog of the INS and *AJOB Neuroscience*.

NeuroTechX

NeuroTechX hosted webinars on neuroethics.

Society for Neuroscience

The INS annual meeting is a satellite of SfN's annual conference.

Financial Support

The International Neuroethics Society was designated a nonprofit organization under the provisions of 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code in December 2008. Funding for the INS comes from membership, grants and donations.

We thank the following sponsors and donors for their support in 2019. Without their assistance, we could not continue to encourage and inspire research and dialogue on the responsible use of advances in brain science.

Opportunities for individuals, institutions, and industry are available to support the mission of the INS. Your involvement will make a difference. The INS recognizes support on our website (neuroethicsociety.org) and in publications and programs, whenever appropriate.

Sponsors

- The Dana Foundation for continued support of operating expenses
- Janssen Neuroscience for support of the poster session at the annual meeting
- Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research at Broad Institute for support of the annual meeting
- The Kavli Foundation for sponsorship of the Fred Kavli Distinguished Neuroethics Lecture at the annual meeting
- Taylor & Francis for general sponsorship of the annual meeting
- Wellcome for sponsoring a panel discussion and for support of the public program
- Duke Science & Society for general support of the annual meeting
- University of Pennsylvania Center for Neuroscience & Society for general support of the annual meeting

Stipend Supporters

- 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

Donors

- Matthew L. Baum
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- Nita Farahany
- Joseph J. Fins
- Henry T. Greely
- Steven Hyman
- Debra JH Mathews
- Helen Mayberg
- Ilina Singh
- Paul Root Wolpe

Contact INS Board members and staff listed on the next page to discuss programming, outreach and support.

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