

Year in Review 2020

International Neuroethics Society



INS International
Neuroethics
Society



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

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. A majority of INS members are located in North America, but a significant and growing portion of the membership is based in Europe, Asia, and other regions. As an international organization, 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 connections among members of this community.

Members join the INS to interact, learn, and participate in critical neuroethics discussions that further this growing field. [Memberships](#) are available for students and professionals.

Benefits

Exclusive [member benefits](#) include:

- Reduced registration fees for the INS annual meeting
- Invitations to special workshops and networking opportunities
- Membership discounts for groups of people at the same institution
- Joint membership discounts with the British Neuroscience Association
- Discounted subscriptions to *AJOB Neuroscience*, the official journal of the INS
- Discounts on select neuroethics titles from Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Springer, and Elsevier
- Opportunity to be included in our [Neuroethics Experts](#) resource list
- Receive our email newsletter with the latest [neuroethics news](#)

Membership is a great way to support the efforts of the international neuroethics community and help us increase our overall impact.



Annual Meeting 2020

For the first time in 2020, the INS meeting was fully online, providing unique opportunities and formats for innovative discussion and interaction. Students, early career researchers, and senior academics from a variety of disciplines and from 30 countries gathered virtually to share their science and insights with colleagues located around the world. Providing virtual access to the 2-day event made this our most attended annual meeting to date.

The program—convened by the INS Program Committee and co-chairs Adrian Carter, Nicole Martinez-Martin and Anna Wexler—was themed ‘Our Digital Future: Building Networks Across Neuroscience, Technology and Ethics.’ Sessions aimed to address the many areas in which brain technologies and data concerning the brain are developed, deployed, utilized and regulated. It was also a priority to discuss social justice and diversity.

Investigators from a wide range of disciplines and regions around the world submitted abstracts and shared their work by submitting a poster or recording an oral presentation. Several of the top presentations were featured during live talks and awarded prizes.

Notably, Ruha Benjamin, Associate Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University and the Founding Director of the Ida B. Wells Just Data Lab, concluded the meeting with the Fred Kavli Distinguished Neuroethics Lecture.

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
- Penn Science & Society

We awarded 28 stipends thanks to the generosity of the following donors:

- Dr. Michael Patterson
- International Brain Research Organization
- Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities

We awarded 9 prizes donated by:

- Elsevier
- Springer



“I thought that this conference was the most well put-together virtual meeting I have attended. I wish my daily class sessions could be of a similar quality.” – Meeting attendee



Walter J. Koroshetz accepting the Hyman Award by video conference.

Prizes and Recognitions

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

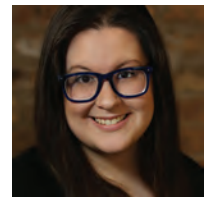
Walter J. Koroshetz, director of the U.S. National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), is the 2020 winner of the Steven E. Hyman Award for Distinguished Service to the Field of Neuroethics. The International Neuroethics Society presented the award at its annual business meeting (pictured above) held by video conference on November 12.

Neuroethics Essay Contest

The INS holds an annual essay contest for students and early career trainees. The contest is supported by **Dr. Michael Patterson**, former editor of the *Kopf Carrier* and long-time supporter of neuroethics. For the second year, the INS collaborated with the International Youth Neuroscience Association to offer the opportunity to high school students.

We received the largest number of submissions yet (over 150) and the 2020 winners (pictured at right) in each submission categories were:

- *Academic*: **Sarah R. Zinn**, University of Chicago (USA); 'Obesity, Cognition, and Society: Ethical Warnings from the Sordid History of Eugenics and Scientific Racism'
- *General Audience*: **Eddie Jacobs**, University of Oxford (UK); 'God, Politics, and Death: How a New Medicine Raises Age-Old Questions'
- *High School*: **Cherie Fernandes** (USA); 'Redefining Justice: Updating Criminal Law to Reflect a New Understanding of the Mind'



For the first time, due to unprecedented volume of excellent scholarship submitted to the contest, several essays from each category were named as honorable mentions. Authors receiving this honor included:

- *Academic*: Isobel Butorac, King's College London (U.K.), Asad Beck, University of Washington (USA), Justin Wong, Harvard University (USA), Anna Elizabeth Ulrey, University of Alabama at Birmingham (USA)
- *General Audience*: Inchara M., Christ University (India), Laure Tabouy, University of Paris-Saclay (France), Connie Y. Lu, Harvard Medical School (USA)
- *High School*: Yuanmeng Zhang (USA), Yashwanth Gokarakonda (USA), Angelina Xu (USA)

Partners

Activities in partnership with other like-minded organizations help to spread the word about neuroethics and increase our impact. Below is a summary of ongoing partnerships.

American Brain Coalition

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

AJOB Neuroscience

The *American Journal of Bioethics – Neuroscience* is the official journal of the INS. Members are eligible for a discounted subscription rate.

Brain Awareness Week

INS is a partner of the annual campaign organized by the Dana Foundation. INS members regularly host local events on ethical issues involving the brain.

The Dana Foundation

The Dana Foundation provides operating expenses to the INS. Winning essays of the Neuroethics Essay Contest are often published on the foundation's website.

International Brain Research Organization

INS and IBRO are members of each other's organizations. Neuroethics has been included in IBRO training programs and IBRO often provides funds to help researchers participate in INS meetings.

International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility

The INS has been invited to develop educational content featuring neuroethics for neuroinformatics practitioners.

International Youth Neuroscience Association

INS and INYA are collaborating on activities of interest to young neuroscientists, including the Neuroethics Essay Contest.

IEEE Brain

Representatives of INS and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers collaborate on areas of mutual interest. With IEEE Brain we hosted a virtual film screening and panel discussion on the award-winning documentary 'I Am Human.'



The Neuroethics Blog

The Neuroethics Blog is the official blog of the INS and *AJOB Neuroscience*. INS members often contribute scholarly posts.

Society for Neuroscience

The INS annual meeting has been a satellite event of Society for Neuroscience annual conference since the first meeting in 2008.

Contact INS Board members and staff to discuss potential opportunities to partner.

Financial Support

The International Neuroethics Society was designated a nonprofit organization under the provisions of 501(c)(3) of the U.S. 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 2020. Without their assistance, we could not fulfill our mission to encourage and inspire research and dialogue on the responsible use of advances in brain science.

Sponsors

- The Dana Foundation for continued support of operating expenses
- Janssen Neuroscience for support of the virtual poster session at the annual meeting
- Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research at Broad Institute for supporting the annual meeting
- The Kavli Foundation for sponsorship of the Fred Kavli Distinguished Neuroethics Lecture at the annual meeting featuring Ruha Benjamin, Princeton University
- Penn Science & Society for general support of the annual meeting

Stipend Supporters

- Dr. Michael Patterson for continued support of the Neuroethics Essay Contest
- International Brain Research Organization for support covering investigators' registrations
- Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities for support covering investigators' registrations

Donors

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- Barbara Sahakian
- Jeffrey Schwartz
- Ilina Singh
- Michael and Shirley Traynor
- Anna Wexler
- Paul Root Wolpe
- Anonymous

Sponsorship Opportunities

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 and in publications and programs, whenever appropriate.

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

Receipt of support does not imply INS's endorsement of the donor or its products, services or policies. In compliance with IRS regulations, no goods or services were received in return for donations. The International Neuroethics Society confirms its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status under FEIN number 20-5230980. Sponsors and donors listed above made contributions between January 1 and December 31, 2020.

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