Brainstorm
Newsletter of the Canadian Neuroethics Interest Group
Bulletin du Groupe canadien d'intérêt en neuroéthique
Prepared by the Neuroethics Research Unit of the IRCM
Préparé par l’Unité de recherche en neuroéthique de l’IRCM

Did you know? – Saviez-vous?

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Équipe éditoriale
Emily Bell PhD, Co-editor
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Founded in 2003, the Berman Institute of Bioethics’ Program in Ethics and Brain Sciences (PEBS) is currently focusing on concepts that are critical to understanding the moral dimensions of scientific advances in our understanding of the brain and the clinical management of disease and injury therein, such as – personal identity, moral responsibility and free will, and the meaning of the neural basis of morality. Past projects include a consensus conference that gathered key stakeholders to discuss the scientific and ethical challenges associated with deep brain stimulation for disorders of mood, behavior and thought.

PEBS is an interdisciplinary endeavor, both in subject and in membership. Group discussion ranges from moral philosophy to novel therapeutic approaches to disease and from public policy to basic science.

The Program in Ethics and Brain Sciences (PEBS) represents the first formal collaboration between the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics and the Johns Hopkins Brain Sciences Institute. The goal of PEBS is to ensure that research in brain science proceeds with an informed and sophisticated understanding of attendant ethical and social issues, and that philosophical and empirical analysis of the advances in brain research proceeds with an informed and sophisticated understanding of the science.
Walter Glannon is Canada Research Chair in Medical Bioethics and Ethical Theory at the University of Calgary, where he is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Associate Professor of Community Health Sciences. He is co-investigator on a team grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for the project “States of Mind: Emerging Issues in Neuroethics.” This interdisciplinary team includes colleagues from Dalhousie University, the Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal, McGill University, and the University of Toronto. Professor Glannon has also collaborated with colleagues in Germany, the Netherlands, and the United States on different topics pertinent to neuroethics. He would like to see more collaboration between humanists and neuroscientists.

Professor Glannon’s interest in neuroethics developed from the combination of his work on free will, personal identity, and the mind-body problem in philosophy and his exposure to clinical neuroscience while working as a clinical ethicist in three different hospitals. He has published on issues such as neuroimaging, psychopharmacological enhancement, deep-brain stimulation, and brain death in various journals and in two books, Bioethics and the Brain (2006) and Defining Right and Wrong in Brain Science: Essential Readings in Neuroethics (ed., 2007). He is currently working on a concept of mind that is not based exclusively on neurobiology but on the interaction between and among the immune, endocrine, and central nervous systems of an embodied organism interacting with the natural and social environment. He uses this concept to argue against the idea that the mind is located in the brain, that brain imaging can read minds, and that neuroscience implies that free will is an illusion. Dr. Glannon will discuss this topic as one of the plenary speakers at the conference Brain Matters: New Directions in Neuroethics in Halifax September 24-26, 2009.

Dr. Glannon also works on ethical issues in organ donation and transplantation, including neural stem cell transplantation. In addition, he is interested in the psychological and ethical implications of using regenerative medicine and genetics to extend the human life span. Among other things, he questions whether efforts to regenerate tissues in the body would have the same effects as efforts to regenerate tissue in the brain. Would retaining our physical capacities for a longer period mean that we would also retain our cognitive capacities for the same period?
Announcements-Annonces

CALL FOR PAPERS & POSTERS

January 16, 2009 Abstract deadline
20th Canadian Bioethics Society Conference
Conference June 11-14, 2009 Hamilton, Ontario
Accepting abstracts for papers, workshops or posters.
For more information: http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/bioethicsconference/

February 1, 2009 Application deadline
University of Pennsylvania Neuroscience Boot Camp
Takes place August 2-12, 2009
For graduate students and professionals looking for a basic foundation in cognitive and affective neuroscience.
For more information: http://neuroethics.upenn.edu/boot_camp.html

March 1, 2009 Abstract deadline
Electronic submissions will open December 15, 2008
Brain Matters: New Directions in Neuroethics
Conference Sept 24-26 2009 Halifax, NS Canada
Speakers include: David Healy (UK), Walter Glannon (CA) and James Bernat (US)
For more information: www.noveltechethics.ca

TRAMES: A Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences
Editor in Chief Urmas Sutrop has announced that Issue No. 4 of Trames 2010 will be devoted to neuroethics. The Special Issue will be edited by two Finnish scholars, Dr. Tuija Takala and Dr. Veikko Launis.

July 31, 2011 Abstract deadline
Neuroethics: The Monist will publish a Special Issue on Neuroethics in 2012.
Advisory Editor: Juha Räikkä (University of Turku)
http://monist.buffalo.edu/callsforpapers.html#Neuroethics
Knowledge Translation Training and Education Coordinator

National Core for Neuroethics
Division of Neurology, Department of Medicine
The University of British Columbia

POSITION DESCRIPTION
The University of British Columbia, Department of Medicine, Division of Neurology, in partnership with the Canadian Dementia Knowledge Translation Network (CDKTN), is seeking a coordinator to spearhead an emerging program focused on knowledge translation training and education. The chosen candidate will further the CDKTN’s global mission of developing a sustainable infrastructure for dementia-related knowledge translation (KT) and exchange by establishing a collaborative and integrated network of key stakeholders. Specifically, the candidate will be responsible for assessing and developing specific training programs and opportunities for researchers, health practitioners, and teachers in knowledge translation and exchange in dementia research. Additionally, he/she will be integral in establishing funding opportunities and research projects throughout the duration of the program. This is a multi-year position with annual renewal contingent upon funding and satisfactory performance.

QUALIFICATIONS & SKILLS
• Masters degree strongly preferred, with research and/or program delivery experience in knowledge translation and exchange.
• Experience and knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, web design, the Internet, data mining, and other computer skills.
• Superior organizational skills.
• Strong leadership skills and demonstrated ability to take initiative.
• Previous experience working with research guidelines and procedures as well as curriculum development within an academic community.
• Appreciation for multi-disciplinary approach and an understanding of the societal role of dementia and mental illness.
• Excellent communication skills.

For further information visit www.neuroethics.ubc.ca
To apply please send a cover letter and resume to alopere@interchange.ubc.ca
NATIONAL CORE FOR NEUROETHICS
LA NEUROÉTHIQUE

Neuroethics Project Coordinator

National Core for Neuroethics
Division of Neurology, Department of Medicine
The University of British Columbia

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The National Core for Neuroethics, located at University of British Columbia, Department of Medicine, Division of Neurology, is seeking a Neuroethics Project Coordinator to work with the team on a number of projects related to perspectives on neuroimaging research, and research on and treatment of neurodegenerative disease and spinal cord injury. The specific projects involve semi-structured interviews and focus groups.

The chosen candidate will build upon past research demonstrating the importance of the voice of stakeholders in human neuroscience research. Specifically, the candidate will be responsible for coordinating interviews and focus groups with researchers, patients, physicians and others, assisting with the collection of data and analyses, and manuscript preparation.

QUALIFICATIONS & SKILLS

- Bachelor’s degree with qualitative research experience
- Experience and knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, MaxQDA, the Internet, data mining, and other computer skills.
- Superior organizational skills
- Strong leadership skills and demonstrated ability to take initiative
- Previous experience working with research guidelines and procedures
- Excellent communication skills

For further information visit www.neuroethics.ubc.ca
To apply please send a cover letter and resume to slombera@interchange.ubc.ca
A new edition of *Brain Facts* made its debut at Neuroscience 2008. The book has been expanded and updated with nine additional pages and new sections on neuroethics and diagnostic methods. The same great illustrations from previous editions are included and it is available in CD-ROM format as well.

**ARTICLES**

*The innovative brain*

*When we enhance cognition with Adderall, do we sacrifice creativity? A preliminary study*

*Evaluating Vancouver’s supervised injection facility: data and dollars, symbols and ethics*
Des Jarlais DC, Arasteh K, Hagan H. *CMAJ* 2008;179 1105-1106

*Depression (JAMA Patient page)*
Torpy JM, Burke AE; Glass RM. *JAMA*. 2008; 300:2202.

*Dementia (JAMA Patient page)*

*Brain-machine interfaces: back in control*

*Human volition: towards a neuroscience of will*

*Why do many psychiatric disorders emerge during adolescence?*

*Beyond polemics: science and ethics of ADHD*
Non-financial conflicts of interests in psychiatric research and practice

The implications of the new brain sciences. The 'Decade of the Brain' is over but its effects are now becoming visible as neuropolitics and neuroethics, and in the emergence of neuroeconomies
Abi-Rached JM. EMBO Rep. 2008 Nov 14; [Epub ahead of print]

Medication treatment perceptions, concerns and expectations among depressed individuals with Type I Bipolar Disorder
Sajatovic M, Jenkins JH, Cassidy KA, Muzina DJ. J Affect Disord. 2008 Nov 7; [Epub ahead of print]

The implications of caring for the injured brain

The burden of self-consciousness.
Baertschi B. Am J Bioeth. 2008 Sep;8(9):33-4

Suffering and the unconscious – "the harder problem"

The risks of reducing consciousness to neuroimaging

Ethical challenges and clinical implications of molecular imaging of human consciousness

The media and suicide
Tor PC, Ng BY, Ang YG. Ann Acad Med Singapore. 2008 Sep;37(9):797-9.

Ginkgo biloba for prevention of dementia: a randomized controlled trial

Ginkgo biloba extract and preventing Alzheimer disease
Schneider LS. JAMA. 2008; 300:2306-2308.
Alzheimer disease protection
Stephenson J. JAMA. 2008; 300:2239.

Routine depression screening advised for patients with coronary heart disease
Mitka M. JAMA. 2008; 300:2356-2357.

The implications of gene–environment interactions in depression: will cause inform cure?
Uher R. Mol Psychiatry 2008 13: 1070-1078; advance online publication,

Behavioral modification. With the historic enactment of mental health parity legislation, providers may see themselves freed from treatment limitations

Looking below the surface: developing critical literacy skills to reduce the stigma of mental disorders

The Mental Capacity Act 2005: promoting the citizenship of people with dementia?

Disorders of sex development (DSDs), their presentation and management in different cultures

Who’s minding the shop? The role of Canadian research ethics boards in the creation and uses of registries and biobanks

Quality of informed consent for invasive procedures

Fostering public engagement
Sher G. CMAJ 2008;179 1174-1175.

Long-term effects of subthalamic nucleus deep brain stimulation on mood: psychosocial profiles remain stable in a 3-year follow-up
Long-term effect of deep brain stimulation for essential tremor on activities of daily living and health-related quality of life

Novel targets for antidepressant therapies

Sustained improvement of obsessive-compulsive disorder by deep brain stimulation in a woman with residual schizophrenia

From psychosurgery to neuromodulation: deep brain stimulation for intractable Tourette syndrome

A tractography analysis of two deep brain stimulation white matter targets for depression

Suicide in Asia

"Neglected personhood" and neglected questions: remarks on the moral significance of consciousness

Neuroethics and neuroimaging: moving toward transparency
News-Nouvelles

Ecstasy could augment the benefits of psychotherapy
   Frood A. Nature 2008; 456: 293.

Medical advances complicate definition of death
   Talk of the Nation, November 11, 2008

Des étudiants consomment du Ritalin
   Nancy D. Forum 43(13): 1-2
   (http://nouvelles.umontreal.ca/component/option,com_magazine/Itemid,221/)
Contributions

If you would like to post any events, letters, articles or news of interest please contact us at neuroethics@ircm.qc.ca

Si vous souhaitez afficher un événement, une lettre, un article ou une nouvelle d'intérêt, veuillez nous contacter à l'adresse suivante: neuroethics@ircm.qc.ca

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