



The European Dana Alliance For The Brain

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www.edab.net

NEUROETHICS REPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL NEUROETHICS NETWORK October 2009

BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK March 2009

Brain Awareness Week is a global programme of public events to celebrate the brain. With more than 76 countries participating, some events touch on neuroethics. For example, there was a special event held at the European Parliament session in Brussels organised by the Science and Technology Options Assessment. Around 130 young students, 14 -18 years old, from schools in five cities to Brussels took part in a conference entitled, 'From stem cells to neural circuits: mechanisms and perspectives for brain diseases.' Later that day there was a debate on stem cells and neuroethics at which experts in neuroethics spoke.

COMMUNICATIONS FOR SENIOR SCIENTISTS, BANFF, 2 MARCH 2009

Elaine Snell was invited by Judy Illes to take part in a neuroethics workshop in Banff, Canada. It was chaired by J Illes and Jay Ingram, host of Discovery Channel's Daily Planet. Twelve neuroscientists, ethicists and journalists attended. The workshop discussed neuroethics topics and ways in which communicating the issues could be improved. As a result, the following media items were produced:

- 4 television pieces for Discovery Channel
- at least eight video podcasts
- a public discussion with over 100 people
- twittering that was "retweeted" reaching thousands
- a paper that will be submitted to Science or Nature
- initiated a research collaboration that will be submitted to NIH for funding to research neuroscientists and the media

INTERIOR TRACES

Interior Traces was a series of multi-media plays about the brain set in 1930, 2009 and 2030. The project was produced by University College London in collaboration with neuroscientists and funded by the Wellcome Trust. Three performances took place in London, one at the Science Museum's Dana Centre, as well as a further performance at the Cheltenham Science Festival. Judy Illes and EDAB member, Mark Lythgoe (University College London) were among the neuroscientists who took part in the neuroethics discussions that followed the plays. <http://www.interiortraces.com/>

PROGRAMME FOR EUROPEAN NEUROSCIENCE SCHOOLS (PENS), CROATIA - JUNE

Elaine Snell was invited to speak at the PENS Summer School in June on Ethics and Communicating Science. The school covers a wide range of scientific issues with ethical implications as well as communication and dissemination, both to the scientific community and to the society. This year, the topic was "Stress, Drug Addiction and Eating Disorders."

FORUM OF EUROPEAN NEUROSCIENCE, AMSTERDAM, JULY 2010

Plans are underway for a special session at FENS 2010 on 'Global Challenges in Neuroethics' will be hosted by EDAB in collaboration with the Neuroethics Society and the International Neuroethics Network. There will be a reception hosted by the Neuroethics Society immediately afterwards. This event will aim to encourage more European neuroscientists to become interested and involved in neuroethics.

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