



**International Neuroethics Network (INN) 5th Annual Meeting  
Chicago, IL  
October 18th, 2009**

**Meeting Notes**

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**In Attendance:**

Astrid Eberhart (*INMHA, Canada*)  
Barbara Sahakian (*University of Cambridge, UK*)  
Daofen Chen (*NINDS, US*)  
Emmeline Edwards (*NINDS, US*)  
Gladys Maestre (*University of Zulia School of Medicine, Venezuela*)  
Judy Illes (*University of British Columbia, Canada*)  
Kate Tairyan (for Yemi Banjo) (*University of British Columbia, Canada*)  
Kathleen Michels (*Fogarty International Center, US*)  
Norihiko Sadato (for Tamami Fukushi and Osamu Sakura) (*University of Tokyo, Japan*)  
Piergiorgio Strata (*Rita Levi Montalcini Center for Brain Repair, Italy*)  
Remi Quirion (*INMHA, Canada*)  
Steven Hyman (*Harvard University, US*)

**Welcome and Updates**

- Dr. Illes greeted attendees and invited them to share updates on their projects
- Dr. Sahakian gave a brief report based on an invited lecture for the Royal Society on Neuroethics. She emphasized the importance of the penetration of neuroethics-related topics to other fields of neuroscience. She also raised the importance of global health ethics, and brought the example of pharmaceutical trials in developing countries, specifically in India and areas of Africa
- Dr. Illes reported on the INN membership
- Dr. Hyman provided an update on the upcoming Neuroethics Society meeting to be held in Washington, DC in May 2010. Dr. Turhan Canli will be the chair of that meeting
- Dr. Illes acknowledged current supporters of the INN (INMHA) and Neuroethics Society (NIH, Dana Foundation, Greenwall Foundation, among others)

- It was noted that new funding opportunities could be tied to the Society's international role, as some of these funders have specific interest in global initiatives. The new NIH director is keen on global health issues, therefore timing for "international" initiatives is very important
- Dr. Maestre spoke about the importance of support activities by the Society to bring neuroethics to the forefront of research and societal issues. She mentioned that neuroethics issues ranged from research ethics to human rights, and are much broader than we now emphasize. Focusing on social capital will also attract more funding. Everyone present agreed that we face different issues in developing countries
- Dr. Chen spoke about the special opportunities for engaging representatives from China since there is funding for neuroscience in this country but no public communication
- Dr. Strata spoke about the lack of understanding of neuroethics in Italy mainly due to religious factors. Also, the current dearth of professionals in the field leads to a situation where neuroethics is practiced "part-time." There is a need for young professionals well-trained in the field of neuroethics
- Dr. Sadato from Japan reported that they are trying to engage other West Asian countries in their programs (Taiwan and Korea for now) and are working closely with them to develop relevant policies
- The success of the ongoing Tri-lateral funding (Canada, Finland, Germany) was highlighted as model for future opportunities
- Dr. Edwards reported on ethics related projects that received funding from the NIH stimulus package. It is difficult to reach the Gates foundation, but the Society could try inviting speakers from the Foundation to meetings, for example
- Health Sciences Online ([www.hso.info](http://www.hso.info)) has started collecting high quality online resources on neuroethics. This can be accessed through a search on this comprehensive online learning resource center
- Topic-specific working groups are being developed, e.g. an Addiction interest group led by Dr. Wayne Hall in Brisbane, Australia and a Cognitive Enhancement interest group led by Dr. Thomas Metzinger in Mainz, Germany
- Dr. Illes announced that AJOB Neuroscience has become an independent journal and encouraged everyone to submit papers

### **Action Items**

- *Propose a name change of the "Neuroethics Society" to the "International Neuroethics Society"*

- There was a consensus that this would promote the Society's role globally, encourage more activities outside of North America, and facilitate fundraising. Some partners in member countries want to establish local neuroethics societies, however, attendees expressed an interest to have one central society and have branches and national societies in member countries for better coordination. The INN team would continue to co-ordinate the international arm of the Society's activities. Re-branding/re-naming might cause some initial confusion; a careful strategy would be needed. This proposal will be brought forward to the Society's executive committee and then to the membership at the 2010 annual business meeting. (Drs. Hyman, Illes, Canli and Sahakian)
- ***Rotate the Neuroethics Society meeting through member countries***
  - For example with a series of two or three in North America and then one abroad. In addition, return to the model of holding the Neuroethics Society meeting with other major neuroscience meetings. Pairing with IBRO, for example, which meets every four years, would promote the society's international role and the involvement of international neuroscientists. The next IBRO meeting is in Florence, Italy, 2011. (Drs. Hyman, Illes, Canli and Sahakian)
- ***Create a central theme for each annual meeting***
  - The themes would match specific topics and would generate more interest. (Dr. Canli)
- ***Raise support for small travel grants***
  - This would be particularly helpful for members from developing countries. (All members)
- ***Develop fellowship opportunities for graduate training in neuroethics***
  - (Dr. Canli)
- ***Propose and develop guidelines for neuro and ethics content for IBRO schools***
  - Dr. Quirion has already received approval; Dr. Illes is developing the content
- ***Actively encourage more members from non-English speaking countries to join the Society***
  - The current body is represented largely by Canadian, UK, and US partners. (All members)
- ***Explore the possibility of a special issue of AJOB-Neuroscience on global neuroethics issues***
  - For example, including a report on the recent meeting in Kampala, Uganda (Dr. Choi)
- ***Create an "Ask the Expert" link/page on the INN website for advice on how to set up neuroethics programs, curricula, and other initiatives***

- INN headquarters will initially provide this resource
- *Explore the feasibility and desirability of an "Online chat forum with the Author" when a major new neuroethics paper is published*
  - INN headquarters will again take the first steps toward this goal
- *Communicate with INMHA about how to involve higher-level politicians in neuroethics issues, especially related to mental health and stigma issues*
  - *Drs. Quirion, and Chen*