

## NIH MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

In recognition of the importance NIH places on understanding the ethical implications of the biomedical and behavioral research it supports, the NIH Director has devoted funds made available through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to address ethical challenges that relate to current, critical opportunities for scientific and health advances. NIH has allocated part of its ARRA funds to support a new initiative called the NIH Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research. Bioethics is one of the 15 Challenge Areas identified to encourage research in high priority areas of biomedical and behavioral research. Within it, there are five specific challenge topics: Unique Ethical Issues Posed by Emerging Technologies; Ethical Issues in Health Disparities and Access to Participation in Research; Ethical Issues Associated with Electronic Sharing of Health Information; Ethical Issues in the Translation of Genetic Knowledge to Clinical Practice; Ethical Issues Raised by the Blurring between Treatment and Research.

Hundreds of Challenge Grant proposals have been submitted in response to this initiative, addressing a variety of bioethical issues, including those related to neuroscience. Of the proposals competed successfully, NINDS is pleased to fund a highly recommended and enthusiastically scored neuroethics application on “Ethics of Control and Consent in Brain Stimulation for Parkinson Disease”.

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NIH.