

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



Events-Événements

October 1, 2009
1^{er} octobre 2009

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Editorial team

Équipe éditoriale

Emily Bell PhD, Co-editor
Cynthia Forlini, Co-editor

Eric Racine PhD, Editor

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Report on the international conference “Brain Matters: New Directions in Neuroethics”

**September 24-26, 2009, Halifax, Nova
Scotia, Canada**

Brain Matters was the first Canadian international neuroethics conference and was co-chaired by Francoise Baylis and Jocelyn Downie (Dalhousie University, Canada). The plenary speakers (James L. Bernat, Walter Glannon, David Healy, Neil Levy, Jonathan H. Marks, Caroline Tait) reflected the diversity of approaches and international presence that were brought together at this conference. As I only have room to highlight a few talks here, additional information on the program is available at http://www.noveltechethics.ca/site_brainmatters.php.

See the full report on page 2

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“Brain Matters: New Directions in Neuroethics”

September 24-26, 2009, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

In a departure from frameworks based on autonomy and personal identity, **Caroline Tait’s (Indigenous Peoples’ Health Research Center, Canada)** plenary talk drew our attention to the ethical needs of vulnerable populations that occupy a fragile space outside Western views on medical ethics. While Tait made a compelling case for the distinct and critical needs of indigenous peoples captured in the notion of “local worlds”, she left us to consider invoking an ethical framework to catalyze change at the level of health care policy with regards to the indigenous peoples of Canada and beyond.

A panel on cognitive enhancement explored the tricky moral space in which neuropharmaceuticals reside in light of complex social pressures and medical ambiguity. **Martha Farah (University of Pennsylvania, USA)** addressed our limited understanding of the actual effectiveness (both medically and phenomenologically) of cognitive enhancers as well as important areas that call for evidence and further research. **Eric Racine and Cynthia Forlini (Institut de Recherches Cliniques de Montreal, Canada)** discussed stakeholder perspectives on the use of cognitive enhancers by college students. They highlighted a false sense of safety associated with prescription drugs as well as the overall forms of coercion underlying social pressures for performance. In conclusion, **Eric Parens (Hastings Institute, USA)** reconciled enhancement cautionaries with enthusiasts with a broad view of where the mind ends and environment begins. Parens called for recognition of the values that underlie different approaches to enhancement and the common search for true enhancement, self-fulfillment, and authenticity.

Finally, **Neil Levy (University of Melbourne, Australia, and Oxford Centre for Neuroethics, UK)** closed the conference with an insightful talk on the nature of neuroethics and the neuroscience of ethics. He indicated how experimental philosophy partnering with reflective equilibrium can challenge our intuitions, for instance, with regards to neuroenhancement. He called for an interesting approach to neuroethics that is informed by neuroscience, and more broadly, the mind sciences.

Report prepared by Emma Zimmerman, PhD Student, Neuroethics Research Unit, IRCM and McGill University

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Profil/ Profile

James Bernat, MD

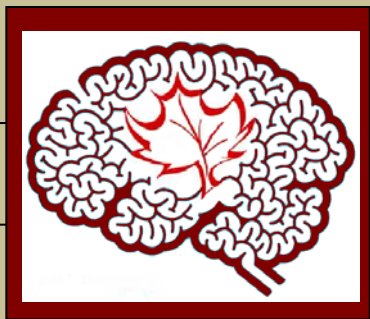
James L. Bernat, M.D. was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts and the Cornell University Medical College. He trained in internal medicine and neurology at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, has been a Dartmouth Medical School faculty member for over 30 years, and has been Professor of Medicine and Neurology for nearly 20 years. Dr. Bernat practices neurology and directs the Program in Clinical Ethics at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. For 25 years he has served on the American Academy of Neurology Ethics, Law & Humanities Committee, 10 years as chairman. Dr. Bernat was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Omega Alpha, and fellowship in the American Academy of Neurology and the American College of Physicians. He serves on the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, has been a consultant to the Vatican, and has testified before the United States Senate.

Dr. Bernat's scholarly interests include ethical and philosophical issues in neurology with a particular focus on disorders of consciousness and the definition and determination of death. He has written over 175 journal articles and chapters on topics in neurology and clinical ethics. He is the author of *Ethical Issues in Neurology*, 3rd ed. (Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2008) and coeditor of *Palliative Care in Neurology* (Oxford University Press, 2004.) He believes that the greatest future challenge for neuroethics and neuroscience is to devise innovative techniques to study conscious awareness. Dr. Bernat lives with his wife in Norwich, Vermont. Their two children are married and live in California.

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**Society for
Neuroscience (SfN)**

**Neuroscience
2009**

**October 17-21st,
2009**

Chicago, Illinois

For more information
and the extensive
program please visit:

http://www.sfn.org/am2009/index.aspx?pagename=preliminary_program

October 8, 2009

Penn Neuroethics Program 09 Talk Series: Barbara J. Sahakian: University of Cambridge, UK.
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

October 15-18, 2009

ASBH 11th Annual Meeting: Translating Bioethics and Humanities
Washington, DC

www.coma.ulg.ac.be/COMA2009.html

October 16 – ASBH Neuroethics Affinity Group,
11:45am

October 19, 2009 Society for Neuroscience (SfN)

10-11:10am: David Kopf Lecture on Neuroethics, Eyes Wide Open, Brain Wide Shut? (Un)Consciousness in the Vegetative State. Speaker: Steven Laureys, MD, Ph.D.

5:15-6:25pm: Presidential Special Lecture: Addiction and Self Control, Speaker: Nora D. Volkow.

October 22-23, 2009

Enjeux éthiques en santé mentale - Un temps de réflexion

Laval, QC

<http://www.hlhl.qc.ca/evenements/hopital/colloques/enjeux.html>

October 26-31, 2009

ESF-COST Conference on Law and Neuroscience: Our growing understanding of the human brain and its impact on our legal system

Acquafredda di Maratea, Italy

<http://www.esf.org/index.php?id=5679>

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**Montreal
Neuroethics
Network Seminar
Series Fall/Winter
2009-2010**

**“NeuroTalk:
Neuroethics for
the NeuroAge”**

**Judy Illes, PhD
National Core for
Neuroethics, UBC**

**November 3rd, 2009
11:30am-12:30pm**

**Institut de
recherches
cliniques de
Montréal (IRCM)
110 Avenue des
Pins Ouest
Salle André
Barbeau**

**Our full program of
seminars will be
finalized shortly.**

November 2-4, 2009

75th Anniversary of the Montreal Neurological
Institute (MNI)

Montreal, QC

<http://apps.mni.mcgill.ca/MNI75/en/index.php>

CALL FOR PAPERS

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: due May 1, 2010

**Special Issue of Neuroethics: Ethical Implications of
Deep Brain Stimulation**

Guest Editor: Jens Clausen.

TRAMES: A Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences

Editor in Chief Urmias 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.

<http://www.kirj.ee/public/trames/index.html>

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>

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Neuroethics of Chronic Consciousness Disorders

Funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), *Neuroethics of Chronic Consciousness Disorders* is a research initiative of the Interdisciplinary Center of Palliative Medicine of Munich University Hospital in Germany. The project is lead by Dr. Ralf Jox and Dr. Gian Domenico Borasio. It aims to characterize challenges in the context of disorders of consciousness (e.g., prolonged coma, vegetative state, minimally conscious state) in order to improve decision making for patients.

This project is part of a Trilateral Neuroethics Project in collaboration with research groups in Canada and Finland. The research groups involved in this project met on Sept 23rd 2009 for their 1st annual meeting.

www.neuroethics-project.net



Biomedical Ethics Unit

Presents

***“The Emperor’s New Drugs:
Exploding the
Antidepressant Myth”***

Irving Kirsch, PhD

**Department of Psychology
University of Hull, UK**

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

3647 Peel Street, Room 101

Bates Seminar Room

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Literature-Littérature



BOOKS AND BOOK REVIEWS

The Search Warrant for the Ego (Die Fahndung nach dem Ich)

A Neurophilosophical Mystery Novel

Northoff G., Irisiana, 2009, 240 pages.



Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Neuroscience

Bickle J. (ed.). Oxford University Press with neuroethics 2009

with related neuroethics entries by Churchland, Racine, Illes, and Roskies.



Position Statement: Psychotropic Drugs and Expanded Uses: An Ethical Perspective

Commission de l'éthique de la science et de la technologie, Government of Québec, 2009

A report that recommends action for Quebec and Canadian governmental stakeholders (and others) regarding cognitive enhancement and the expanded use of psychotropic drugs. Report and summaries in French and English soon available at: <http://www.ethique.gouv.qc.ca/>

ARTICLES

Psychiatry for the person

Cox JL, Gray AJ. Curr Opin Psychiatry. 2009 Sep 9.

Media coverage of the persistent vegetative state and end-of-life decision-making: Theresa Schiavo's tragedy and ours too.

Folmer RL, Racine E, Amaram R, Seidler M, Karczewska M, Illes J, Bernat JL. Neurology 2009;73 909-910

Reporting ethical aspects in published research articles in the Indian Journal of Psychiatry

Chaturvedi SK, Somashekar BS. Indian J Psychiatry. 2009 Jan;51(1):34-7.

Scientific and ethical issues related to deep brain stimulation for disorders of mood, behavior, and thought

Rabins P et al. Arch Gen Psychiatry. 2009 Sep;66(9):931-7.

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Literature-Littérature



Mental health costs

Kuehn BM. JAMA. 2009; 302:1162.

Off-label use in child and adolescent psychiatry. An ongoing ethical, medical and legal problem

Kölch M, Allroggen M, Fegert JM. Nervenarzt. 2009 Jul;80(7):789-96 (German).

Consent for case reports and medical images

Frizelle F. N Z Med J. 2009 Aug 7;122(1300):8-10.

Canadian research ethics boards, MRI research risks, and MRI risk classification

Marshall J, Hadskis MR. IRB. 2009 Jul-Aug;31(4):9-15

Justified use of painful stimuli in the coma examination: a neurologic and ethical rationale

Williams MA, Rushton CH. Neurocrit Care. 2009;10(3):408-13. Epub 2009 Mar 7.

Canadian Network for Mood and Anxiety Treatments (CANMAT): Clinical guidelines for the management of major depressive disorder in adults. IV. Neurostimulation therapies.

Kennedy SH, Milev R, Giacobbe P, Ramasubbu R, Lam RW, Parikh SV, Patten SB, Ravindran AV; Canadian Network for Mood and Anxiety Treatments. J Affect Disord. 2009 Oct;117 Suppl 1:S44-53.

Deep brain stimulation, deontology and duty: The moral obligation of non-abandonment at the neural interface.

Fins JJ. J Neural Eng. 2009 Oct;6(5):50201. Epub 2009 Sep 1.

Association of an educational program in mindful communication with burnout, empathy, and attitudes among primary care physicians

Krasner MS et al. JAMA. 2009; 302:1284-1293.

The struggle for dignity by people with severe functional disabilities

Wadensten B, Ahlström G. Nurs Ethics. 2009 Jul;16(4):453-65.

Historical milestones of neuroscientific psychophysiology

Mangina CA. Int J Psychophysiol. 2009 Aug;73(2):76-80.

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Literature-Littérature



Brain donation: Who and why?

Glaw XM, Garrick TM, Terwee PJ, Patching JR, Blake H, Harper C. Cell Tissue Bank. 2009 Aug;10(3):241-6

The Terri Schiavo saga: Ethical and legal aspects and implications for clinicians

Mueller PS. Pol Arch Med Wewn. 2009 Sep;119(9):574-81.

Responding to requests from adult patients for neuroenhancements. Guidance of the Ethics, Law and Humanities Committee; On behalf of the AAN Ethics, Law and Humanities Committee

Lariviere D, Williams MA, Rizzo M, Bonnie RJ;. Neurology. 2009 Sep 23.

Ensuring data integrity

Editorial. Nature Neuroscience 2009; 12(10): 1205.

Deep brain stimulation for pediatric movement disorders

Marks WA, Honeycutt J, Acosta F, Reed M. Semin Pediatr Neurol. 2009 Jun;16(2):90-8.

The curious case of Ashley X

Kirschner KL, Diekema D, Lantos J, Kemp JD, Doyle E, Mukherjee D, Schalick WO 3rd. PM R. 2009 Apr;1(4):371-8.

Humanistic educational theory and the socialization of preregistration mental health nursing students

Lipscomb M, Ishmael A. Int J Ment Health Nurs. 2009 Jun;18(3):173-8.

Powerlessness, marginalized identity, and silencing of health concerns: Voiced realities of women living with a mental health diagnosis

Van Den Tillaart S, Kurtz D, Cash P. Int J Ment Health Nurs. 2009 Jun;18(3):153-63.

Promoting genuine consumer participation in mental health education: A consumer academic role

Happell B, Roper C. Nurse Educ Today. 2009 Aug;29(6):575-9.

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Resources-Ressources

Neuroethics at the University of Pennsylvania

<http://neuroethics.upenn.edu/>

University of British Columbia, National Core for Neuroethics

www.neuroethics.ubc.ca

Canadian Neuroethics Network

<http://www.neuroethics.ca>

Neuroethics Society

<http://www.neuroethicssociety.org/>

Neuroethics Research Unit / L'Unité de recherche en neuroéthique

<http://www.ircm.qc.ca/microsites/neuroethics/en/>

<http://www.ircm.qc.ca/microsites/neuroethics/fr/>

Journal of Ethics in Mental Health

www.jemh.ca

Novel Techethics

www.noveltechethics.ca

Centre for Neurosciences, Johannes Gutenberg-University of Mainz

<http://www.neuroethik.ifzn.uni-mainz.de/index.php?L=1>

Neuroethics at the Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics

<http://neuroethics.stanford.edu/>

Berman Institute of Bioethics' Program in Ethics and Brain Sciences (PEBS)

www.bioethicsinstitute.org/neuroethics

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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