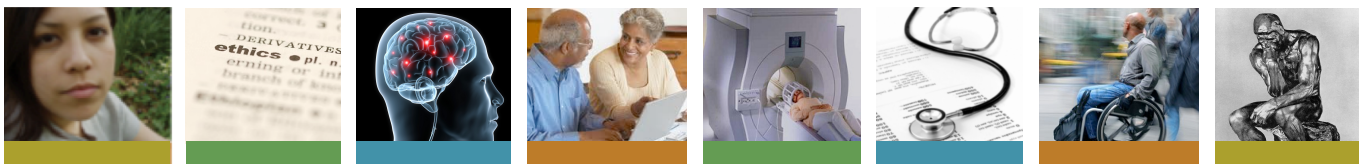


Tremendous advances in neuroscience have sparked heightened focus on the promises of brain research. New windows have been opened to understanding brain disorders such as **depression, addiction, and dementia**, and **hope for new interventions** realized. But these advances have raised profound ethical questions about the implications of new methods and discoveries for individuals, society, and culture: **How can we protect the privacy of individuals with mental health disorders in an expanding information age?** What guidelines are needed to manage staggering **increases in the use of medicines for children diagnosed with mood disorders?** What policies are needed to respond to a diversion of already **scarce medical resources** from **quality care for the elderly** and to **predictions of brain disease** for which a cure remains elusive? How can we best empower Canadians of all cultural backgrounds to make good choices about their brain health as **personalized medicine** replaces physician-directed clinical practice? At these junctures of neuroscience, ethics, and human values, neuroethics plays a critical role.



LEADERSHIP

Dr. Judy Illes is Canada Research Chair in Neuroethics, Professor of Neurology, and member of the Brain Research Centre at the University of British Columbia (UBC). A neuroscientist-turned-neuroethicist, she earned her PhD degree at Stanford University, where she co-founded the Stanford Brain Research Center and pioneered the field of Neuroethics: "The advances are tremendous – predicting disease, creating new ways to treat addiction, finding genetic codes for how we think and feel. These developments reach deeply into who we are. Everyone deserves a voice in these developments – the scientists at the bench, the doctors who will use them, policy-makers who will have to regulate them, and Canadians for whom they have to be meaningful. We are bringing all these voices forward and making them heard."

The UBC National Core for Neuroethics, directed by Dr. Illes, is a federally and privately funded world-leading centre devoted to complex ethical, legal, social, and policy challenges at the intersection of modern brain science and biomedical ethics. The Core has distinguished itself by listening to the concerns and enthusiasms of multiple communities – experts, patients, and the population at large – and by translating ideas into policy proposals that incorporate the best of thought from leaders in the field and the public.

Dr. Peter Reiner, Professor of Psychiatry and a member of the Brain Research Centre, co-founded the Core with Dr. Illes in 2007. He is an expert in cellular and molecular neuroscience and former President and CEO of Active Pass Pharmaceuticals. Today, Dr. Reiner investigates the ways in which advances in the neurosciences impact everyday lives and personal well-being, including how we seek to improve our cognitive selves and the effects of modern neuroscience on society at large.

Dr. Lynn Beattie, Professor Emerita, Division of Geriatric Medicine and Director of the Clinic for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders at UBC, co-leads the Core with Drs. Illes and Reiner. She is a world-renowned force in clinical care and research related to brain diseases like AD that progressively strip people of their cognitive and motor abilities, personalities, and identity.

Drs. Illes, Reiner and Beattie train dozens of outstanding graduate and post-graduate students from a wide range of disciplines in the sciences and humanities, and mentor them to positions of leadership in academia, medicine, biotechnology, and policy. In the past year, the team at the National Core for Neuroethics has provided leadership to the discipline, garnering awards for scholarship, publishing in the academic literature and engaging in extensive outreach to the public. We are pleased to share our past year's accomplishments with you.

AWARDS AND KEYNOTE LECTURES

Dr. Judy Illes was elected to the Royal Society of Canada.

Dr. Judy Illes was elected a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

Dr. Judy Illes was awarded the Louis Hanson Marshall Special Recognition Award from the Society of Neuroscience for exceptional service to women in neuroscience.

Dr. Peter Reiner was the Keynote Lecturer at the conference From Neuroselves to Neurosocieties: Cross-disciplinary conversations around the neurosciences and society.

Dr. Judy Illes gave the Margarete Wuensche Memorial Lecture at the Hotchkiss Brain Institute at the University of Calgary.

Drs. Julie Robillard and Louise Whiteley, as well as graduate students Daniel Buchman and Roland Nadler received Young Scholars Awards to attend the Brain Matters II Conference in Montreal.

Chris Scott received a UBC international tuition support award from the Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The National Core for Neuroethics hosted a public conference as part of Brain Awareness Week entitled "Rights Come to Mind: Narratives, Neuroethics, and Disorders of Consciousness".

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Joseph Fins (Columbia Univ.)

Panelists: Dean Mary Ann Bobinski (UBC Law), Dr. Gladys Maestre (University of Zulia), Dr. Eric Racine (ICRM, Montreal) & Dr. John Harris (Manchester Univ.)

Dr. Judy Illes was among a group of panelists who addressed issues of ethics, wisdom and more at Sam Sullivan's Public Salon.

Drs. Judy Illes and Julie Robillard wrote an op-ed for the Vancouver Sun entitled "A Meeting of the Minds on Brain and Law".

Dr. Nina Di Pietro was featured in a Vancouver Sun front page article entitled "The Puzzles of Autism", written by our 2010-2011 Journalism Intern Rebecca Cheung.

Dr. Marleen Eijkholt presented a webinar information session hosted by Spinal Cord Injury BC entitled "Stem Cell Ethics: What's all the fuss?".

Dr. Julie Robillard presented a webinar information session hosted by the Canadian Dementia Knowledge Translation Network entitled: "Dementia Research and Care in Social Media: Creating New KT Opportunities".

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Illes J. Deep brain stimulation: Paradoxes and a plea. *American Journal of Bioethics – Neuroscience*, 2012, 3(1), 65-70.

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Castelo N, Reiner PB, Felsen G. Balancing autonomy and decisional enhancement: an evidence based approach, *American Journal of Bioethics*, 2012, 12:30-31.

Scott CT, Caulfield T, Borgelt E, Illes J. Personalized medicine: The next banking crisis. *Nature Biotechnology*. 2012, 30, 1-7.

Eijkholt M, Illes J, Anderson JA. Picturing neuroscience research through a human rights lens: Imaging first episode schizophrenic treatment-naïve individuals. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 2012, 35(2), 146-152.

Scott N, Murphy T, Illes J. Resting-state fMRI: The first functional frontier for incidental findings? *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*, 2012, DOI: 10.1525/jer.2012.7.1.51.

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Illes J, Reimer J, Kwon B. Stem cell clinical trials for spinal cord injury: Readiness, reluctance, redefinition. *Stem Cell Reviews and Reports*, 2011, 1-9, DOI 10.1007/s12015-011-9259-1.

Valerio J, Illes J. Ethical implications of neuroimaging in sports concussion. *Journal of Head Trauma Research*, 2011, 27:216-21.

GRANTS

Dr. Judy Illes received funding from the Stem Cell Network for a project entitled "Translation Challenges, Science Policy, and Stem Cell Research".

Dr. Judy Illes received funding from CIHR for a project entitled "Neuroimaging for Disorders of Consciousness: Charting the Canadian Ethics Landscape".

Dr. Peter Reiner received a grant from the Mind Foundation of BC for a project entitled "Reducing Stigma".

Drs. Judy Illes, Brian Kwon and Marleen Eijkholt received a grant from the Stem Cell Network for a project entitled "Risks and Resolutions: Stem Cells for Spinal Cord Injuries".

Dr. Nina Di Pietro was awarded an Exploratory Workshop Grant from the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies for a project entitled "Deliberations on the Ethical Use of Antipsychotic Medications in Children".

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