

Neuroethics Competition for Neuroscience Trainees

The goal of this competition, sponsored by Loyola U Chicago's Dana Program for Neuroscience & Society, is to encourage neuroscience trainees to spearhead reflection on the ethical ramifications of neuroscience discoveries and neurotechnological advances.

Top prize: If the work is presented at the next Society for Neuroscience (SFN) meeting as a theme J poster or talk, winners will receive \$2000 to cover expenses. If the work is not presented at the SFN meeting, the winner will receive \$500. Two top prizes will be awarded. In addition, the PIs of the two labs will receive \$200 to spend on a lab gathering or to distribute to non-lead lab members who helped. The top 3 submissions will be invited to present a poster of their work at the Chicago SFN on March 21st.

Eligibility: -Trainees (undergraduate to postdoc) working in laboratories in the Chicago area are welcome to develop a team, all teams must have at least one professor in the field of neuroscience in the senior author position. A PI may not be on more than two submissions. Only one lead-author submission is permitted per trainee. Involvement of all personnel within a lab is encouraged. Only the lead author can receive the \$2000 award. Ethicists and other non-scientist professionals with relevant expertise may be consulted and should be listed as co-authors if they impacted the work. Ethicists are allowed to be co-authors on an unlimited number of submissions.

Topics: Any topic addressing an ethical issue resulting from a neuroscience discovery or neurotechnological advance is allowed. A few examples are the ethics of (usually addictive) study drugs, whether neurological impairments should be considered in assessing guilt for criminal actions, whether environmental factors (sound, light or chemical pollution) that impact the nervous system should be regulated.

Consider incorporating the following: brief explanation of the molecular/cellular mechanism relevant to the dilemma, how widespread the impact may be, the heart of the ethical dilemma, regulation or policies to be considered, if any, and advocacy steps. Referencing neuroethical literature and using scientific rigor to assess impact is encouraged, mastery of the literature is not required.

Format: Submissions should be a video of a narrated PowerPoint/Google presentation, provided as an MP4. The maximum duration of the video is **10 minutes**. To request an upload link please email Dr. Bill Rochlin (wrochli@luc.edu), Loyola U. Chicago Biology Dept. Please identify the PI and coauthors.

Judging: There will be two sets of judges, one composed of neuroscientists, ethicists, and other professionals in related fields; and one composed of community members, so presentations should be engaging and accessible to both experts and laypersons.

Criteria: The significance of the topic, the effectiveness of the presentation, and the relevance to society at large or the Chicagoland community.

Due date: February 24th, 2025. Judging will be completed by March 7th.