

Psychiatry Grand Rounds

WCM Department of Psychiatry
Psychology CE Announcement



**Weill Cornell
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Psychiatry

Deep Brain Stimulation, Brain Injury, and Personal Identity: Towards an Empirical Neuroethics

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Live Online, Live In-person

Wednesday, February 2nd, 2025

11:00am – 12:00pm

<https://weillcornell.zoom.us/j/92812036154>

Meeting ID: 928 1203 6154

Password: 12345



1 CE credit available to WCM Department of Psychiatry full time and voluntary faculty Psychologists, Social Workers and LMHCs, who sign in with their full name, attend the majority of the lecture and complete a survey which will be emailed following the completion of the lecture. Note the survey must be completed within 30 days of the lecture. Please contact wcmpsychiatryce@med.cornell.edu for additional CE information

Speaker

Joseph J. Fins M.D., D. Hum. Litt. (hc), M.A.C.P., F.R.C.P. is The E. William Davis, Jr. M.D. Professor of Medical Ethics, Professor of Medicine, and Chief of the Division of Medical Ethics at Weill Cornell Medical College. He is the Director of Medical Ethics at New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell and co-directs the Consortium for the Advanced Study of Brain Injury at Weill Cornell and Rockefeller University. At Yale Law School he is the Solomon Center Distinguished Scholar in Medicine, Bioethics and the Law and a Visiting Professor of Law. Dr. Fins has also held visiting professorships at Princeton, Wesleyan, and Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and served as President of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities as well as the International Neuroethics Society. He is chair of the Hastings Center Board of Trustees and a Fellow of the Center. Dr. Fins is the author of over 500 papers, chapters, essays, and books including *Rights Come to Mind: Brain Injury, Ethics and The Struggle for Consciousness* (Cambridge University Press). His current research is funded by the NIH BRAIN Initiative. Dr. Fins is the recipient of the University of Oklahoma's Patricia Price Browne Prize in Biomedical Ethics and the American College of Physician's Nicholas E. Davies Memorial Scholar Award for Scholarly Activities in the Humanities and the History of Medicine. He is an elected Member of the National Academy of Medicine, the Association of American Physicians, Alpha Omega Alpha, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and by Royal Appointment an *Academico de Honor* of the Royal National Academy of Medicine of Spain. In May of 2024 he was given the Weill Cornell Medical College *Alumnus of Distinction Award*. Dr. Fins is currently working on a biography of the physician-humanist, Dr. Lewis Thomas.

Financial Disclosure: Dr. Fins has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose and DOES NOT INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.

Abstract

In this presentation I will present subject and family narratives of participants in an NIH BRAIN Initiative study of deep brain stimulation in moderate to severe traumatic brain injury and explore issues of personal identity. By drawing upon the lived experience of subjects and their families I will argue that neuroethics can transcend speculative philosophical explorations and ground ethical analysis in the real.

Learning Objectives

1. Describe the scientific principles underlying the use of deep brain stimulation (DBS) in the treatment of moderate to severe brain injury.
2. Analyze the historical development and ethical considerations associated with the use of DBS in brain injury research.
3. Evaluate the role of patient and family narratives as qualitative data in informing complex clinical trials.

References

1. Schiff, N. D., Giacino, J. T., Butson, C. R., Choi, E. Y., Baker, J. L., O'Sullivan, K. P., Janson, A. P., Bergin, M., Bronte-Stewart, H. M., Chua, J., DeGeorge, L., Dikmen, S., Fogarty, A., Gerber, L. M., Krel, M., Maldonado, J., Radovan, M., Shah, S. A., Su, J., . . . Henderson, J. M. (2023). Thalamic deep brain stimulation in traumatic brain injury: a phase I, randomized feasibility study. *Nature Medicine*, 29(12), 3162–3174. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-023-02638-4>
2. Fins, J. J., Wright, M. S., Henderson, J. M., & Schiff, N. D. (2022). Subject and Family Perspectives from the Central Thalamic Deep Brain Stimulation for Traumatic Brain Injury Study: Part I. *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*, 31(4), 419–443. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0963180122000226>
3. Fins, J. J., Wright, M. S., Shulman, K. S., Henderson, J. M., & Schiff, N. D. (2023d). Subject and Family Perspectives from the Central Thalamic Deep Brain Stimulation Trial for Traumatic Brain Injury: Part II. *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*, 1–24. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s0963180123000518>

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