

19th International Cleveland Clinic Epilepsy Symposia

Ethics of Invasive Brain Testing: Limits and Responsibilities

Sunday, October 3, 2010

Symposium Organizer - Paul Ford, PhD

Clinicians and researchers are faced with ethically intricate challenges with the continued advancement of invasive technologies for monitoring and testing brain functioning. These technologies allow us to localize seizure foci, map functional areas, and explore therapeutic stimulation with applications to epilepsy, tumors, neurodegenerative diseases, and psychiatric disorders. These tests are performed on patients who become unusually vulnerable to power differences and manipulation. We have great potential to manipulate a person's cognition, mood, or mind through these processes. We need to have clear reasons and justifications for choosing:

- Which technologies we use
- Which patients we use them on
- How we use them on patients
- What research questions we tackle
- How we tackle those research projects

Threaded through these challenges are deeply held value convictions about justice, professionalism, and responsibility.

Audience: This one-day symposium is intended to engage neurologists, neurosurgeons, psychiatrists, advance care nurses, physician assistants, and ethicists in addressing practical ethical challenges related to invasive brain testing.

Agenda

- 8:00 Welcome and Overview**
- 8:20 Harms and Benefits**
- Is long term damage too great?
 - Benefits of testing should not be forgotten
- 9:30 Discussion – How do we balance risks of testing against risks of surgical morbidity?**
- 10:20 Psychological Considerations**
- An awake craniotomy for everyone?
 - Using deception and manipulation in invasive testing
- 11:30 Discussion – What role for psychological effects and vulnerability?**
- 1:15 Economies and Diminishing Returns**
- Invasive testing and resection in developing countries
 - Balancing fiscal responsibilities against patient best interest
- 2:30 Discussion – When should strategies for invasive testing be dictated by economic conditions?**
- 3:20 Researching Responsibly and Responsibility to Research**
- A view of research ethics for invasive brain testing
 - Invasive neurosurgical research not benefiting that patient
- 4:30 Discussion – How do we extend research in novel ways that respect various responsibilities?**

Invited Faculty–

Mark Bernstein, MD, FRCS(C)
Toronto, Ontario

Adrienne Boissy, MD, MA
Cleveland Clinic

Warren Boling Jr, MD
Morgantown, WV

William Cheshire, MD
Jacksonville, FL

T. (Teo) Forcht Dagi, MD
Boston, MA

Cynthia Kubu, PhD
Cleveland Clinic

Imad Najm, MD
Cleveland Clinic

Carmen Paradis, MD, MA
Cleveland Clinic

Stephen Schiff, MD, PhD
University Park, PA

Dennis D. Spencer, MD
New Haven, CT

Peter Whitehouse, MD, PhD
Cleveland, OH