

**CANADIAN BRAIN RESEARCH STRATEGY (CBRS)
Meeting with the Pan-Canadian Neurotechnology Ethics
Collaboration (PCNEC) Group**

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM PST, Monday, November 2, 2020, Via Zoom



Summary of Meeting Notes

CBRS Secretariat

- Yves de Koninck, PhD, Professor, Laval University
- Judy Illes, CM, PhD, Professor, University of British Columbia
- Caroline Menard, PhD, Assistant Professor, Laval University
- Marianne Bacani, Events Director, University of British Columbia
- Caterina Marra, BSc, Research Assistant, University of British Columbia

PCNEC Group

- Allison Bethune, Research Manager, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
- Jennifer Chandler, Professor, University of Ottawa
- Clement Hamani, Senior Scientist, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
- Louise Harding, Research Assistant, University of British Columbia
- Viorica Hrinco, Research Assistant, University of British Columbia
- Zelma Kiss, Professor, University of Calgary
- Suzanne LeBlang, Director of Clinical Relationships, Focused Ultrasound Foundation
- Nir Lipsman, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto
- Ying Meng, Resident, University of Toronto
- Tejas Sankar, Associate Professor, University of Alberta

CBRS OVERVIEW

The Canadian Brain Research Strategy (CBRS) is a grassroots effort across Canada to engage the whole field of brain research to transforming neuroscience. The CBRS coincides with international initiatives through the International Brain Initiative (Canada, US, EU, Japan, Australia, South Korea and China) to address questions in brain science. Among the activities in the IBI, there are working groups:

- Global Neuroethics
- Data Standards & Sharing
- Inventory of Global Brain Projects
- Education & Training
- Communication & Outreach
- Tool & Technology Dissemination

CBRS mission: Raising Awareness, Raising Issues, Raising Engagement.

Organizational structure and staff, Executive/International Advisory Board

The CBRS has received funding from CIHR to structure the initiative. There is a Steering Committee and a number of collectives (e.g., Funders Collective, Research Leaders Group, Stakeholders Collective, Early Career Researchers [ECRs] Collective). We are recruiting for an Executive Director. We have a Cultural Diversity Expert, and will have a Communications Specialist and Knowledge Translation Specialist soon.

Short-term agenda

- Engage ECRs, stakeholders (e.g., patients, patient organizations, and communities), decision makers and funders to build a board-based consensus
- Continue to shape the vision and priorities

DISCUSSION

Challenges in the Canadian context

- Canada is good with generating good pilot data in the clinical space, but it struggles to get these to the next phase.
- Pilot trials, whether they lead to therapies or not, are potentially a treasure trove of fundamental neuroscience knowledge. We need to reduce the silos and explicitly support collaborations between basic scientists, clinicians, translational neuroscience research.
- Build a case for more funding.

PCNEC - CBRS Collaboration

Clinical piece is missing in the Global Neuroethics working group, so this might be where CBRS can contribute further. There is not much clinical perspective yet in other initiatives. CBRS values understanding brain science from the basic/hard science. This might where Canada could lead other initiatives.

ACTION ITEM

- Host a joint CBRS and PCNEC workshop to discuss basic and clinical neuroscience (neurostimulation/neuromodulation), create briefing documents, and use this as a test case for what the CBRS can do.