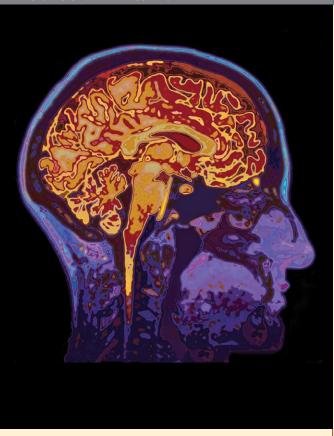
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Symposium Articles

Emerging Portable Technology for Neuroimaging Research in New Field Settings: Legal & Ethical Challenges

Guest Edited by Francis X. Shen, Susan M. Wolf, and Frances Lawrenz

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INTRODUCTION
Revolutionizing Neuroimaging
Research with Highly Portable MRI:
Confronting Ethical and Legal
Challenges

Francis X. Shen, Frances Lawrenz, and Susan M. Wolf (Guest Editors)

Section 1: Mapping the Challenges of Emerging Portable Neuroimaging Technologies

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Conducting Research with Highly Portable MRI in Community Settings: A Practical Guide to Navigating Ethical Issues and ELSI Checklist

Francis X. Shen, Susan M. Wolf, Frances Lawrenz, Donnella S. Comeau, Barbara J. Evans, Damien Fair, Martha J. Farah, Michael Garwood, S. Duke Han, Judy Illes, Jonathan D. Jackson, Eran Klein, Matthew S. Rosen, Efraín Torres, Paul Tuite, and J. Thomas Vaughan

Highly portable and accessible MRI technology will allow researchers to conduct field-based MRI research in community settings. Previous guidance for researchers working with fixed MRI does not address the novel ethical, legal, and societal issues (ELSI) of portable MRI (pMRI). Our interdisciplinary Working Group (WG) previously identified 15 core ELSI challenges associated with pMRI research and recommended solutions. In this article, we distill those detailed recommendations into a Portable MRI Research ELSI Checklist that offers practical operational guidance for researchers contemplating using this technology.

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Expert Stakeholder Perspectives on Emerging Technology for Neuroimaging Research with Highly Portable MRI: The Need for Guidance on Ethical, Legal, and Societal Issues

Molly K. Madzelan, Frances Lawrenz, Susan M. Wolf, and Francis X. Shen

Portable MRI (pMRI) technology, which promises to transform brain imaging research by facilitating scanning in new geographic areas and the participation of new, diverse populations, raises many ethical, legal, and societal issues (ELSI). To understand this emerging pMRI ELSI landscape, we surveyed expert stakeholder views on ELSI challenges and solutions associated with pMRI research.

Section 2: pMRI Scanning in New Populations and Settings

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Far from Home: Managing Incidental Findings in Field Research with Portable MRI

Susan M. Wolf and Judy Illes

Portable MRI for neuroimaging research in remote field settings can reach populations previously excluded from research, including communities underrepresented in current brain neuroscience databases and marginalized in health care. However, research conducted far from a medical institution and potentially in populations facing barriers to health care access raises the question of how to manage incidental findings (IFs) that may warrant clinical workup. Researchers should not withhold information about IFs from historically excluded and underserved population when members consent to receive it, and instead should facilitate access to information and a pathway to clinical care.

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The Realization of Portable MRI for Indigenous Communities in the USA and Canada

Shana Birly, Angela Teeple, and Judy Illes

The paucity of existing baseline data for understanding neurologic health and the effects of injury on people from Indigenous populations is causally related to the limited representation of communities in neuroimaging research to date. In this paper, we explore ways to change this trend in the context of portable MRI, where portability has opened up imaging to communities that have been neglected or inaccessible in the past. We discuss pathways to engage local leadership, foster the participation of communities for this unprecedented opportunity, and empower field-based researchers to bring the holistic worldview embraced by Indigenous communities to neuroimaging research..

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Socioeconomic Factors in Brain Research: Increasing Sample Representativeness with Portable MRI

Martha J. Farah

People of low socioeconomic status (SES) are often under-represented in biomedical research. The importance of demographically diverse research samples is widely recognized, especially given socioeconomic disparities in health, but have been challenging to achieve. One barrier to research participation by low SES individuals is their distance from research centers and the difficulty of traveling. This article examines the promise of portable magnetic resonance imaging (pMRI) for enrolling participants of diverse SES in structural neuroimaging studies, and anticipates some of the challenges, practical and ethical, that may arise in the course of such research.

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Portable Accessible MRI in Dementia Research: Ethical Considerations About Research Representation and Dementia-Friendly Technology

Eran Klein, S. Duke Han, Paul Tuite, W. Taylor Kimberly, and Mohit Agarwal

The introduction of portable MRI (pMRI) has the potential to directly impact dementia research and ultimately clinical care. In this paper, we explore two ethical challenges facing the introduction of pMRI in dementia research. The first is the need to ensure that pMRI enhances rather than undermines efforts aimed at improving ethnoracial representation in dementia research. The second is the need to implement pMRI in dementia research in a dementia-friendly way that attends to the social context and lived experience of people with dementia.

Section 3: Building a Process for Ethical Research with Portable MRI

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The Need for IRB Leadership to Address the New Ethical Challenges of Research with Highly Portable Neuroimaging Technologies

Donnella S. Comeau, Benjamin C. Silverman, Mahsa Alborzi Avanaki, and Susan M. Wolf

The emergence of innovative neuroimaging technologies, particularly highly portable magnetic resonance imaging (pMRI), has the potential to spawn a transformative era in neuroscience research. Resourced academic institutional review boards (IRBs) with experience overseeing traditional MRI have a special role to play in ethical governance of pMRI research and should facilitate the collaborative development of nuanced and culturally sensitive guidelines and educational resources for pMRI protocols. This paper explores the ethical challenges of pMRI in neuroscience research and the dynamic leadership role that IRBs should play to promote ethical oversight of emerging pMRI research.

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Ethical Oversight and Social Licensing of Portable MRI Research

Barbara J. Evans

This article explores two questions: (1) whether portable MRI research might escape regulatory oversight altogether under existing U.S. privacy and research ethical frameworks, leaving research participants without adequate protections, and (2) whether existing regulatory frameworks, when they do apply, can guard society's broader interest in ensuring that portable MRI research pursues socially beneficial, ethically sound aims that minimize the potential for externalities affecting nonparticipating individuals and groups, who might be stigmatized or otherwise harmed even if they decline participation in the research.

Independent Articles

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Posthumous Sperm Use in Times of War: Ethics, Law and Society

Sharon Bassan

This article delves into the legal developments, bioethical nuances, and societal perspectives surrounding posthumous sperm use, particularly in the context of soldiers falling during their service. It analyzes the Israeli example during The Swords of Iron War, where the bioethical dilemma is decided based on national solidarity, beyond the "clean" bioethical-legal discussion.

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Posthumous Use of Sperm: Legal and Bioethical Reflections on Israeli Policy *Roy Gilbar*

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Payers are Morally Responsible for Reimbursing Social Care by Medical Facilities: How to Make Value-Based Payments Work for Vulnerable Patients

Jacob Riegler

Payers have shaped the healthcare system in the United States as fee-for-service has facilitated a care model that prioritizes volume over the sake of patient care. This worsens health disparities, especially in safety net facilities where ancillary social work is both necessary clinically and completely uncompensated. Using concepts from Iris Marion Young's Responsibility for Justice, it can be concluded that payers have a moral responsibility for reimbursing social care to address historical injustices. In this article, I describe the ethical hazards in paying for social care and propose a way to finance this through value-based payments.

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COMMENTARY

The Power and Limits of Political Philosophy in Analyzing Healthcare Markets

Lauren A. Taylor

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How Did Human Rights Fare in Amendments to the International Health Regulations?

Lisa Forman, Judith Bueno de Mesquita, Luciano Bottini Filho, Benjamin Mason Meier, and Matiangai Sirleaf

In this article, we examine the relationship between the World Health Organization International Health Regulations (IHR) and human rights and its implications for IHR reform, considering the evolution of human rights in the 2005 IHR, the role of human rights in IHR reforms and the implications of these reforms in key domains including equity and solidarity, medical countermeasures, core capacities, travel restrictions, vaccine certificates, social measures, accountability, and financing.

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How Leaders at High-Performing Healthcare Organizations Think About Organizational Professionalism

Julie L. Agris, Sherril Gelmon, Matthew K. Wynia, Blair Buder, Krista J. Emma, Ahmed Alasmar, and Richard Frankel

This pilot study is the first formal exploration of the concept of "Organizational Professionalism" (OP) among health system leaders in high-performing healthcare organizations. Semi-structured key informant interviews with 23 leaders from eight healthcare organizations that were recipients of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award (MBNQA) or Baldrige-based state quality award programs explored conceptualization, operationalization, and measurement of OP. Further exploration and understanding of OP in healthcare organizations has the potential to establish and sustain professional and ethical organizational cultures that bolster trust through the sound implementation of laws, policies, and procedures to support the delivery of high-quality patient care.

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