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CLBB News

A newsletter from the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior

December 7, 2023

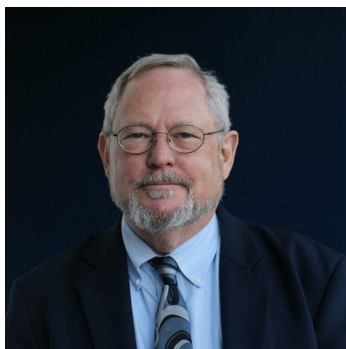
CLBB Highlights



[CLBB Founder Advises on New Judicial Standards](#)

SJC Working Group | November 30, 2023

CLBB Founding Co-Director Judith Edersheim served as an expert to the Working Group of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts which released new Standards on Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health Conditions. The Standards, revised for the first time since 1998, offer guidelines for judges and other court personnel and include the recognition that “Recurrence of substance use is common, and is best approached as an opportunity to reset treatment and recovery planning and goals.”



[Even ‘Most Brazen Offenders’ Can Gain From Youth Diversion Programs](#)

Boston Globe | September 8, 2023

A letter to the editor of The Boston Globe by **CLBB Executive Dr. Director Robert Kinscherff** appeared on September 8. Titled “Even ‘Most Brazen Offenders’ Can Gain from Youth Diversion Programs”, the letter cited CLBB’s partnership with the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office to mount an innovative alternative to incarceration program for 18 to 25-year olds.

["Second Chance" Legislation Conference](#)

Vermont Law and Graduate School | November 3, 2023

CLBB Executive Director Dr. Robert Kinscherff provided a detailed briefing on adolescent and young adult neurological and social development to a working conference on “Second Chance” legislation sponsored by the Vermont Law and Graduate School. The “Second Chance” bill pending in Vermont would require that offenders convicted of serious crimes as young adults have an opportunity after a set term of years to demonstrate that they have been rehabilitated and can be safely paroled to the community.

[Substance Use Disorder, Neuroscience, and Parenting](#)

Association of Ontario Judges | September 8, 2023

CLBB Director of the InCite Library Dr. Stephanie Tabashneck gave the plenary address on September 8 at the annual family law conference of the Office of the Chief Justice, Ontario Court of Justice. Her talk, Substance Use Disorder, Neuroscience, and



Parenting, was given to an audience of 55 judges.

[Forensic Psychologist Testifies as Dale Holloway Attempts to Prove Insanity Defense](#)

WMUR | November 7, 2023

CLBB Director of the InCite Library Dr. Stephanie Tabashneck testified as Dale Holloway attempts to prove that he was criminally insane at the time of the shootings. In her testimony, Dr. Tabashneck testified about various mental health disorders, the effects of trauma on development, and developmental neuroscience. She also reviewed the limits of psychological testing within a legal context.



[Briefings and Testimony for Massachusetts Legislators](#)

The General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts | September to November 2023

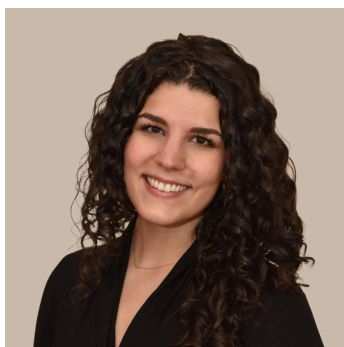
Over a three-month period, **CLBB Executive Director Dr. Robert Kinscherff**, **CLBB Co-Founder and Co-Director Judith Edersheim**, and **CLBB Director of the InCite Library Dr. Stephanie Tabashneck** participated in several individual briefings and committee hearings with Massachusetts legislators and key committee staff. In both individual briefings and committee testimony, they brought accurate and actionable neuroscience to inform their consideration of pending legislation on managing substance use disorders with persons on probation, decriminalizing addiction, and raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to age 20. These bills are currently passing through committees and are anticipated to be on the legislative agenda during early 2024.



[Why Do We Let So Many People Murder Their Children?](#)

Reaction | August 8, 2023

The human capital necessary to deal with the volume of children at risk of maltreatment in America is insufficient. In simpler terms, this means there aren't enough child welfare professionals to deal with the huge number of children whose welfare needs to be investigated and intervened in. **CLBB International Fellow in Law and Applied Neuroscience Saul Glick** and Katie Spearman presented their findings on what can be done to solve this issue, and why police reform is an essential first step.



[Top Student Essays on Ethical Issues in Brain Science Selected in the Neuroethics Essay Contest](#)

International Neuroethics Society | September 2023

CLBB Project Director Caitlyn Tabor received recognition from the International Neuroethics Society for her research at the intersection of trauma and credible fear determinations. Her research highlights shortcomings in the U.S. asylum system, noting inadequate accommodations for traumatized applicants, which impact the reliability of credible fear determinations crucial to their cases. She advocates for the integration of trauma-informed perspectives and neuroscientific evidence in these determinations to aid judges and attorneys in understanding trauma's impact on testimony, potentially enhancing protections for vulnerable asylum seekers.

[Patients' Race/Ethnicity in Relation to Their Experiences of and Attitudes Toward Therapist Referral/Assignment](#)

Cogent Mental Health | November 15, 2023

CLBB Project Manager Heidi Kmetz and others examined whether patients' experiences of and attitudes toward therapist referral/assignment, including the use of therapist effectiveness data, differed by racial/ethnic identity. Results suggested patients would value using therapist effectiveness data to find a good-fitting therapist. Notably, people of color versus white patients endorsed



more positive attitudes toward harnessing therapist data, supporting that doing so could potentially help address the needs of marginalized populations and redress the mental health care disparities they have historically faced.

Advisory Board Member News



[The Rise of AI Forces Us to Reinterpret Our Human Intelligence](#)

Financial Times | July 24, 2023

In this opinion piece, **Anne Marie-Slaughter, CEO of New America**, emphasizes the importance of critical thinking in this world of AI. She states how generative intelligence, both natural and artificial, can organize vast amounts of knowledge, but with continual and ineradicable errors. Therefore, students must master nuance and become skilled in asking questions.

Highlight: "If the goal of education is to enable our full potential, then we must rethink how we are developing all human capacities, taking advantage of the technological tools that augment our natural abilities. This education needs to be life-long...As technological advances enhance human capabilities, our need for human guides will only grow."



[Dems Propose Billions in Child Care Funding to Avoid COVID-Era Cliff](#)

NBC Boston | September 13, 2023

Congresswoman (Massachusetts 5th District) and House Minority Whip Katherine Clark is partnering with Senator Bernie Sanders and Patty Murray to introduce the Childcare Stabilization Act. The proposed legislation would allocate \$16 billion to child care per year for five years. It outlines the need for more child care services in underserved communities, better pay for industry workers and sustained funding from the federal government to enable parents to remain in the workforce.



[FPWA CEO Jennifer Jones Austin Busts Poverty Misconceptions](#)

Spectrum News | October 15, 2023

Jennifer Jones Austin, CEO and Executive Director of Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, joined Spectrum News program "In Focus" to dispel poverty misconceptions by explaining how the federal poverty measure was created decades ago and does not fit into today's standards. She also stressed the importance of liveable wages and why the push for higher minimum wage is a must.

Faculty News

[Youth Justice Icon Award](#)

Citizens for Juvenile Justice | December 6, 2023



CLBB Faculty Member Hon. Jay Blitzman was honored on December 6 at the 2023 Leadership Celebration of Citizens for Juvenile Justice for "his tireless efforts to achieve justice and equity for young people across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts". Judge Blitzman (Ret.) served as the First Justice of the Massachusetts Middlesex Juvenile Court for 24 years, following a career as a public defender. He is very active in juvenile justice reform with the American Bar Association, is a science-informed advocate for developmentally aligned accountability and community safety, and writes and presents frequently on an array of issues related to advancing youth and community well-being, equity and deconstructing the cradle to prison pipeline.



[Examining the Association Between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Lifetime History of Head or Neck Injury and Concussion in Children From the United States](#)

Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation | August 14, 2023

CLBB Faculty Member Dr. Altaf Saadi and others aimed to determine whether there is an association between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and lifetime history of early childhood mild head or neck injury and concussion in a U.S. cohort. They found that ACEs are associated with early childhood mild head or neck injury and concussion and should be integrated in head injury prevention and intervention efforts.



[Effects of Institutional Rearing and Foster Care Intervention on Error Monitoring and Externalizing Behaviors in Adolescence](#)

Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience | September 5, 2023

CLBB Faculty Member Dr. Charles Nelson and others investigated the impact of early psychosocial deprivation and foster care intervention on error monitoring. They also looked at the association with internalizing and externalizing behavioral problems in adolescence. They found that adolescents who received foster care show improved error monitoring, whereas those who received long institutional care show deficits in error monitoring. Results indicate that error monitoring deficits are associated with externalizing-ADHD problems. This study suggests that error monitoring may be a pathway to psychopathology in institutionalized children.



[Research on Aging Judges Cited Multiple Times](#)

HMS Center for Bioethics | September 28, 2023

CLBB Faculty Member Dr. Francis Shen's research on aging in the judiciary was cited multiple times in response to the suspension of 96-year-old federal judge Pauline Newman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit by the Federal Circuit's Judicial Council. Dr. Shen's seminal article, [Aging Judges](#), was cited by the [New York Times](#) and [Reuters](#), and Dr. Shen was quoted at length by [Bloomberg News](#).



[The Sporadic Early-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Signature of Atrophy: Preliminary Findings From the Longitudinal Early-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Study \(LEADS\) Cohort](#)

Alzheimer's & Dementia | October 18, 2023

CLBB Faculty Member Dr. Brad Dickerson and others developed an early-onset Alzheimer's disease (EOAD) signature of atrophy based on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans. They found that EOAD signature was robustly reproducible across two patient cohorts and had prominent atrophy in parietal and posterior temporal cortex. The EOAD-signature atrophy was associated with the severity of cognitive impairment. This suggests that the EOAD signature is a reliable and valid biomarker of neurodegeneration.

[REACH for BRAIN: Improving Recruitment, Engagement, and](#)



[Access for Community Health Equity for Human Neuroimaging Research](#)

Athinoula A. Martinos Center | October 25, 2023

The MGH Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging installed “Connectome 2.0”: a state-of-the-art MRI scanner for imaging of structural connections within the brain. **CLBB Faculty Member Dr. Francis Shen and Dr. Jonathan Jackson** are among colleagues who are partnering in a new project called Recruitment, Engagement, and Access for Community Health Equity for BRAIN Next-Generation Human Neuroimaging Research and Beyond (REACH for BRAIN). This project will employ a “Theory of Change” framework which will enable to develop community-entrenched pathways for individuals from underrepresented minority populations (URM) to engage and participate in Connectome 2.0 studies.

Highlight: “Neuroimaging technologies have improved dramatically over the years, but engagement and recruitment efforts have not... The main thrust of the project is to challenge and reimagine the ways neuroimaging research is conducted by grounding it in the local community” - Dr. Francis Shen

“With the REACH for BRAIN project, we will learn from centuries of mistakes in brain research and invite marginalized groups to co-design—and co-own—research processes from the very beginning... Our hope is to find ways to limit or prevent racialized or essentialized questions from coming to the fore.” - Dr. Jonathan Jackson

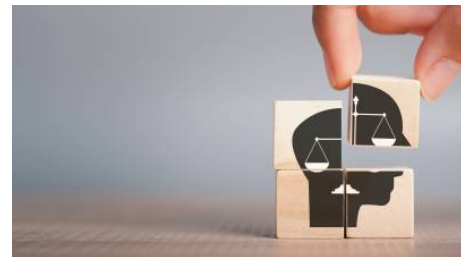
Future Events

[Aligning Criminal Practice with Addiction Science](#)

Petrie-Flom Center & CLBB | December 12, 2023, 12:30 PM EST

Register for this event [here!](#)

This panel discussion will be held virtually, as an online webinar. To ensure that you will receive access to the livestream and be kept up to date on any changes to the event, [register now](#). We will send out a link to the livestream of the event to all registrants the day before and day of the event. Last registration is 11:30 AM on the day of the event.



Drawing on the science of substance use disorders (SUD), this presentation will focus on legal responses to SUD that contradict neuroscience and behavioral research, such as incarcerating individuals on probation following a relapse. Implications for bail, sentencing, probation, and parole will be discussed as well as client-centered considerations. The presentation will also include science-informed criminal justice approaches that support treatment and recovery.

Panelists:

Introduction: [Susannah Baruch](#), Executive Director, Petrie-Flom Center

[Lisa Newman-Polk, Esq., LCSW](#), Lead Counsel for Julie Eldred in Commonwealth v. Eldred

[Stephanie Tabashneck, PsyD, JD](#), Senior Fellow in Law and Applied Neuroscience, Center for Law, Brain and Behavior and the Petrie-Flom Center

Past Events

[Forum on the Aging Brain and Elder Fraud Protection](#)

The Center for Law, Brain & Behavior | November 16, 2023

On November 16, 2023 CLBB hosted a *Forum on the Aging Brain and Elder Fraud Protection* for financial services and banking professionals, judges, disability and elder rights attorneys/advocates, and medical professionals with experience in elder populations. Participants reviewed a draft of CLBB's White Paper that uses neuroscience knowledge to enhance protections against financial fraud and exploitation for elders in cognitive decline. The completion and dissemination of the White Paper will be followed by a pilot project mounted with several investment advisory firms to test recommendations regarding regulatory and ethical compliance and protection of their clients.

[Young, Vulnerable, and Betrayed: What can be done to help America's most vulnerable children?](#)

CLBB & Petrie-Flom Center | December 7, 2023, 12:00 PM EST

A child born in America today has a 37% chance of having their welfare investigated by the state by the time they turn 18. For black children, the probability rises to 53%. Over next 18 years, 145 million American children will be referred to child protective services. What does this mean? And what can be done about it?



This seminar is broken into two sections. First, **Saul Glick, Senior International Fellow in Law, Policy, and Applied Neuroscience**, and **Kathryn Spearman, registered nurse and PhD candidate at Johns Hopkins**, will discuss their research and upcoming paper on the impact crime related events are having on America's children and the system which is designed to protect them.

Second, Saul will discuss the novel intervention, C.A.R.E. (Child At Risk Evaluation), which he designed to enhance the training, data gathering, and information sharing techniques used by frontline mandatory reporters. C.A.R.E. will be piloted in early 2024 in a mid-sized American city.

Panelists:

[Saul Glick, MA](#) is the International Fellow for Law, Policy, and Neuroscience for the Project on Law and Applied Neuroscience a collaboration between the Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Law, Brain and Behavior (CLBB) and the Petrie-Flom Center. After graduating with an M.A. in English Literature from the University of Edinburgh, Saul joined London's Metropolitan Police Service (Met), where he was a police constable (PC), a public order (demonstrations and protests) officer, and attached to various detective units. In 2021, Saul won the Kennedy Scholarship, which annually sends British post-grads on full scholarship to either Harvard or MIT; Saul was a special student attached to Harvard's psychology department.

[Kathryn Spearman, MSN, RN](#) is a pediatric nurse and a PhD candidate at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing whose doctoral training is funded through a F31 training grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Development. Ms. Spearman's research focuses on intimate partner violence (IPV) and child maltreatment, firearm injury prevention, IPV-related homicides of women and children, and risk-assessment. Her scientific inquiry is informed by clinical experience working as a pediatric nurse with abused children in inpatient and residential treatment settings. Her BS and MSN are from the University of Virginia and Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, respectively, and she earned a graduate certificate in maternal child health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Opportunities

[Shen Lab Opportunities](#)

The **Shen Lab** at Harvard is accepting applications for two full time positions: (1) [a full time Post-Doctoral Fellow position](#) within the NIH funded project: *Improving Recruitment, Engagement, and Access for Community Health Equity for BRAIN Next-Generation Human Neuroimaging Research and Beyond* (REACH for BRAIN); and (2) [a full time Fellow to support the expansion of a new Career Network in Neuroscience & Society](#), supported by the Dana Foundation. The Shen Lab is directed by Dr. Francis Shen, JD, PhD is the CLBB Chief Innovation Officer and a faculty member at the Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics, MGH Department of Psychology, and Harvard University Affiliated Professor at Harvard Law School.

In the News

General

[Georgia Tech to Launch Interdisciplinary Neurosciences Research Program](#)

Georgia Tech | September 18, 2023

[This is the Largest Map of The Human Brain Ever Made](#)

Nature | October 12, 2023

[U.S. Immigration Courts See a Significant and Growing Backlog](#)

October 19, 2023

[Zooming in on Our Brains on Zoom](#)

YaleNews | October 25, 2023

[California Joins Multi-State Coalition Supporting Health Care for Immigrant Families](#)

CBS News | October 28, 2023

Juvenile Justice

[Court Weighs Custody of Young Offenders](#)

CommonWealth Magazine | October 5, 2023

[Dozens of People File Lawsuits Alleging Abuse In Maryland's Juvenile Detention Centers](#)

CBS News | October 5, 2023

[Michigan House Passes Bipartisan Bills Aimed at Improving Juvenile Justice System](#)

Michigan Advance | October 17, 2023

[In Michigan, Juvenile Justice Carries High Cost: Crippling Debt for Parents](#)

Bridge Michigan | October 23, 2023

[Positive Role Models for Juvenile Justice-Impacted Youth](#)

Imprint News | October 25, 2023

[Giving First-Time Juvenile Offenders Avenues Away From Detention in New York](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange | October 26, 2023

[Juvenile Justice Program Gives a Glimpse Into Students' Lives Through Essay Contest](#)

OCDE Newsroom | October 26, 2023

[NYC Mayor Adams Launches Juvenile Justice Advisory Board As Part of Strategy to Support Young Offenders](#)

Staten Island Advance | October 27, 2023

Elder Justice

[A Retirement Puzzle: Turning Over Control of Your Money](#)

The New York Times | August 11, 2023

[AG Campbell Announces Mary Freeley as Director of Elder Justice Unit](#)

Office of the Attorney General | August 18, 2023

[D.C. Attorney General Says Financial Elder Abuse is on the Rise, Encourages Reporting](#)

DCist | August 31, 2023

[The Justice Department Issues Fifth Annual Elder Justice Report](#)

U.S. Department of Justice Office of Public Affairs | October 18, 2023

[Elder Abuse Seminar Trains Those Charged With Helping the Most Vulnerable](#)

The Repository | October 29, 2023

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