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CLBB News

A newsletter from the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior

July 26, 2021

CLBB Highlights

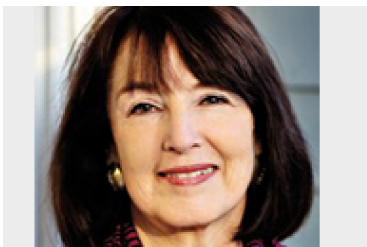


[Massachusetts Could Loosen Life Without Parole Restrictions for Young People](#)

The Appeal | June 30, 2021

CLBB Executive Director Dr. Robert Kinscherff PhD, JD comments on whether life without parole sentences are unconstitutional for people ages 18 to 20 who have been convicted of first-degree murder. The article references Dr. Kinscherff's February 2021 testimony on the inability to predict any individual's prospects of rehabilitation with certainty.

Highlight: "Kinscherff testified in February that it is impossible to reliably predict an individual's capacity for change. 'People change over the course of their lives,' he said. 'Even adults who have been very problematic, very violent people can change when they are in their thirties and forties. ... [T]he further out the prediction goes the shakier the ground that you're on. And that's even more the case with adolescents and late adolescents.'"



[CLBB Managing Director and Former Federal Judge Nancy Gertner Makes Two Important Appearances on Radio Boston.](#)

[The Supreme Court Weakens The Voting Rights Act, And What That Means In New England](#)

Radio Boston | July 1, 2021

On July 1, Gertner discussed the implications of two rulings made by the Supreme Court on two Arizona laws relating to provisional and absentee ballots.

Highlight: "It is clear that these are dissents that are forecasting *Roe v. Wade* and are forecasting affirmative action. If you dilute thirty years of precedent in area A, there is a risk that it is diluted as a principle in other areas."

Listen to the full segment [here](#).

[Can They Do That? We Ask Judge Nancy Gertner](#)

Radio Boston | July 7, 2021

On July 7, Gertner was featured on Radio Boston to discuss the arrest and detainment of a juvenile during the armed standoff on Route 128 in

Wakefield that led to the arrests of ten other men.

Highlight: "Ordinarily, the only purpose of bail is to make sure people that will attend their next court proceeding or all the court proceedings. It is not a form of punishment. . . But If you have someone that doesn't reside in Massachusetts and doesn't accept the authority of the court, then there's no way that you can be satisfied that they will come to court the next day. They don't accept the authority of the court. That's what they said in court yesterday. Presumably, that's the position they will take."

Listen to the full segment [here](#).



[Tapping Into the Brain to Help a Paralyzed Man Speak](#)

New York Times | July 14, 2021

In a scientific milestone, researchers were able to use electrodes to accurately decode the brain signals of a stroke patient and display his words on a screen. **CLBB Co-Founder and Co-Director Bruce Price** was the neurology attending physician at the time the index patient was receiving care at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Read more about this major feat [here](#).

Faculty and Board Member News



[What Causes Panic Disorder?](#)

Psych Central | May 3, 2021

In this article on the root causes of panic disorder, **CLBB Faculty Member Eugene Beresin MA, MD** briefly explains the relationship between anxiety disorders and panic disorders. He specifically offers his expertise on how to treat panic disorder.

Highlight: "It's important to have a complete medical examination. What may appear to be panic disorder could be a medical illness, such as thyroid or other hormonal diseases, cardiac disorder, seizures or other illnesses that present themselves as panic disorder."



[Source of Remarkable Memory of 'Superagers' Revealed](#)

Massachusetts General Hospital | July 6, 2021

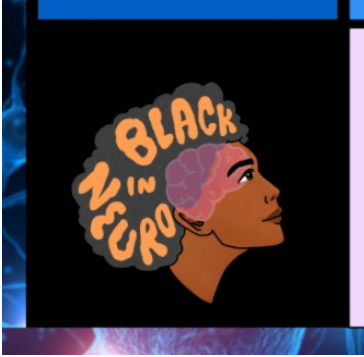
CLBB Faculty Member Lisa Feldman Barrett and colleagues empirically explore the brain activity underlying the superior memory of a rare group of elders, "superagers," whose learning and recall abilities are comparable to that of a 25-year old.

Highlight: "'Superagers' who performed a challenging memory task in an MRI scanner were able to learn and recall new information as well as 25-year-old participants. Neurons in the visual cortex of brains of superaging older adults retain their selective and efficient ability to process visual stimuli and create a distinct memory of the images. In the future, interventions to train specific areas of the brain to be more efficient may enable normal aging adults to enhance memory and other cognitive functions."

Upcoming Events

[Black in Neuro Week 2021](#)

July 26, 2021- August 1, 2021



Black In Neuro Week will include several live events covering topics ranging from neuro racism and the need for more equitable research practices, to a mentorship training workshop that teaches how to better support BIPOC trainees.

This week is filled with wonderful opportunities to support and network with Black scholars in neuroscience-related fields from all around the world. All of the events are virtual, FREE, and open to the public.

Register [here](#) to receive a summary of each day's events.

In the News

General

[Near-Vacant Sentencing Panel Gives Biden Chance for Fresh Start](#)

Bloomberg Law | June 28, 2021

Juvenile Justice

[New York Project Aims to Narrow Gap Between Minority Versus White Juvies Sent to Community Programs, Not Prison](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange | July 15, 2021

[Opinion | What Do Police Know About Teenagers? Not Enough.](#)

New York Times | July 17, 2021

Elder Justice

[Norco Woman Accused of Stealing Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars From Two Seniors with Dementia](#)

California News Times | July 16, 2021

[AI-Powered Emotion Analysis Technology to Help Diagnose Mental Health Conditions in Seniors in Singapore](#)

Mobi Health | July 18, 2021

Trauma and Immigration Justice

["Spaces of Detention" Takes You Inside the Facilities That Criminalize Undocumented Immigrants](#)

The Marshall Project | July 14, 2021

[Judge Rules DACA Is Unlawful and Suspends Applications](#)

New York Times | July 19, 2021

[This is what happens to child migrants found alone at the border, from the moment they cross into the US until age 18](#)

The Conversation | July 23, 2021

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