

# CLBB News A newsletter from the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior

October 9, 2020

#### **CLBB Highlights**



# Nearly Three-Quarters of Youth Behind Bars Suffer From Mental Health Issues

Cronkite News | September 4, 2020

The expertise of CLBB Associate Managing Director Dr. Robert Kinscherff, JD, PhD was cited in a recent article discussing how more than 70% of youth entering juvenile detention and currently behind bars are suffering from mental health issues that often go untreated and unnoticed. Dr. Kinscherff, who directs CLBB's juvenile and emerging adult justice work, observed that "states deal with mental health in a variety of ways, 'from the appalling to the surprisingly sophisticated and well-funded."

# Francis Shen to Lead New \$1.5M NIH Neuroethics Grant on Ethics of Portable Neuroimaging University of Minnesota | September 16, 2020

CLBB Executive Director Francis Shen will co-lead a new \$1.5M NIH Neuroethics grant exploring the ethical and legal implications of new, highly portable MRI technology. In a press release announcing the grant, Dr. Shen noted: "Instead of participants traveling to the scanner, the scanner will come to them. This will allow acquisition of brain data in remote field settings across a wide variety of research designs with more diverse participants. It will allow researchers greater ability to reach rural, economically disadvantaged, and racial and ethnic minority populations that are currently underrepresented in neuroimaging research and a priority for NIH research." Co-PIs on the grant at UMN are Professors Susan Wolf and Frances Lawrenz. MRI experts Michael Garwood (UMN), J. Thomas Vaughan (Columbia), Matthew Rosen (MGH), and Ramon Gonzalez (MGH) will be in the Working Group, along with other leading experts in neuroscience, law, and ethics, including recently named MacArthur Fellow Damien Fair (UMN).

Image Source: Used with permission from Dr. Mailin Lemke and Ben Parksinon, Victoria University of Wellington

#### **Upcoming Events**

### <u>Detecting Dementia: Technology, Aging Brains, and the Law</u>

November 16, 2020, 12:00-1:00 pm EDT

Advances in neuroimaging, genetics, and mobile health apps are creating unprecedented opportunities to detect subtle brain changes that may predict the onset of Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia. But how much trust should we have in these new technologies, who will have access to them, and how should the law respond when litigants proffer novel evidence of their brain states?



This panel will explore technological innovations in dementia detection, and their ethical, social, and legal implications.

This event is part of the <u>Project on Law and Applied</u>
<u>Neuroscience</u>, a collaboration between the Center for Law, Brain &
Behavior at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Petrie-Flom
Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics at Harvard
Law School.

Past Events: In Case You Missed It

#### Power Shift: Casting off Racism to Create Transformative Change

FPWA | Originally Aired on September 18, 2020 (Watch On-Demand)

Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA) convened a two-hour virtual event entitled: *Power Shift: Casting off Racism to Create Transformative Change*, seeking an open and honest debate about the changes human services nonprofits must make to build true and lasting racial equity and power sharing into every aspect of their organizational structure and work. Panelists included **CLBB Advisory Board Member Jennifer Jones Austin** (Moderator, CEO & Executive Director, FPWA).

#### Faculty Research and News

## Media and Medicine Certificate Program: How to Tell Stories that Make a Difference

**CLBB Advisory Board Member Dr. Neal Baer, MD** is the director of an initiative to use medical storytelling to address the health challenges that affect our society.

Highlight: "MEDIA and MEDICINE: How to Tell Stories That Make a Difference is an intensive program for those interested in using storytelling to advance health. We welcome health care professionals, medical and public health students, journalists, health advocates, bioethicists, foundation staff, hospital administrators, public health policymakers-anyone interested in telling stories to improve health both here in the US and around the world."

#### How Do Age and Gender Affect Judges' Sentences? New Study Suggests Nuanced Answer

American Bar Association Journal | September 17, 2020

Researchers, including **CLBB Executive Director Francis Shen**, studied nearly 3,000 sentences imposed over a 16-year period in Colorado, and found that judges' age and gender correlated with differences in sentence length-but only for serious crimes. Younger female judges were tougher on serious crimes than male and older female judges, the Colorado study found. The Sept. 10 study, published in the *Columbia Journal of Gender and Law*, found that, for "high harm crimes," young female judges on average sentenced offenders to 24% more incarceration (4.9 years more) than did their male colleagues and to 25% more incarceration (5.1 years more) than did their older female colleagues.

#### In the News

General

Brain-Scanning Backpack Brings Neuroscience Into the Real World | Science | Sep 18, 2020

Neuroscience, Law & COVID-19

<u>COVID-19 Neurological Symptoms Emerge in Most Hospitalized Patients, Study Says</u> | CNN | Oct 7, 2020

Juvenile and Emerging Adult Justice

Adolescent Brain Immaturity Makes Pending Execution Inappropriate | Dr. Jason Chien, Bloomberg Law | Sep 17, 2020

'Raise the Age' Observers Find Progress and Pain in Courts Following Juvenile Justice Reforms | The City | Sep 13, 2020

<u>Juvenile Abuse Bill Prompted by Glen Mills Investigation Passes House</u> | The Philadelphia Inquirer | Sep 21, 2020

Trauma and Immigration Justice

Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Asylum Seekers: A Compassionate and Trauma-Informed Approach | Medical XPress | Sep 17, 2020

Elder Justice

How Ruth Bader Ginsburg Challenged Ageism | PsychologyToday | Sep 20, 2020

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