

# WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY

## Research Group on Neuroethics

Chairman

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April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013/Prof.G/GM

## Revision of the Report of the Applied Research Group (ARG) On Neuroethics 2012/13

Chairman: Univ.Prof.Dr.Dr.h.c.mult Franz Gerstenbrand,Vienna, Austria

Secretary: Dr.Sabahat A.Wasti, Abu Dhabi, UAE

In the statement of the ARG Neuroethics published in the World Neurology 2009 was stated that Neuroethics in its basic principles can be considered as well established. But critically it was announced that the ethical directives used in neurology were based on the historical and religious rules of the European civilization, the philosophy of Aristotle with incorporation of the Christian philosophy of Thomas Aquinas. In this respect the ethical principles have to be called as “Western Ethical Rules”. With the globalization it has to be recognized that the “Western ethical rules” must not be anymore considered as a general acceptable ethical law.

In the Applied Research Group on Neuroethics it was decided to organize a Task Force for transcultural requirements, with the obligation to develop a draft for harmonization of the various ethical directives based on religious and cultural demands. As members of the Task Force were announced Prof.Dr.Franz Gerstenbrand, Austria, Central Europe, specially educated and trained in European history and Christian philosophy, Dr. Sabahat A. Wasti, Abu Dhabi, UAE, educated in the Islamic philosophy and poet in Urdu Language, Professor Dr. James Bernat, Hannover, USA, experienced in medical-ethical issues, Prof. Stavros E. Baloyannis, Aristoteles University Thessaloniki, Greece, personally active in the Greek Orthodox Church.

As additional members are asked Dr. Nirmal Surya, Mumbai, India, experienced in socio-medical issues and in Hinduism, Kyaw Thant, Yangon, Myanmar, authorized to build up the contact to the Buddhist monk congregation of Myanmar.

The basic paper for Transcultural Requirements is in active preparation for the distribution to additional elected members of the ARG Neuroethics, members with experience in religious, cultural and traditional rules.

One of the aims of the ARG Neuroethics is to intensify the cooperation with special panels or SIG's of other neurological societies and associations, as well as of psychiatric societies too. An intensive cooperation with the SIG on Neuroethics of the World Federation for Neurorehabilitation is in a continuous state, based on a personal union. Cooperation is initiated with the European Federation for Neurorehabilitation and with the Central and East European Neurological Association. With the American Academy of Neurology contacts are planned.

The Ethics special Interest group was active in the organization of a symposium during the 7 th World Congress of the World Federation for Neurorehabilitation, Melbourne, 16-19 th May 2012, titled "Ethics and Transcultural Requirements" 5 lectures were in the programme.

A Teaching Course in Neuroethics is in the program of the World Congress for Neurology, Vienna, September 2013, Chairs Franz Gerstenbrand, James L. Bernat, in addition a workshop "Neuroethics", convenor James L. Bernat.

As it was announced in the last two reports, the Applied Research Group on Neuroethics has no possibility to acquire financial support. It would be unethical to ask the pharmaceutical industry and the electronic industry to support the ARG Neuroethics. A new application to the World Federation of Neurology for a grant is foreseen, with the great hope to get a financial basis for the further work of the group. The main aim is now to finish the project of Harmonization on Neuroethics,

including transcultural requirements. Meetings of the responsible members and specialists from different countries for intensive discussions lasting 1-2 days are necessary and have to be financially subsidized.

The ARG Neuroethics has no conflicts of interest with other ARG's of the WFN. No financial movements are to report. Till now no grant or financial support from the WFN or from the industry is received.

Univ.Prof.Dr.Dr.h.c.mult Franz Gerstenbrand  
Chairman of the Research Group for Neuroethics

Dr. Sabahat A.Wasti,  
Secretary