



Top student essays on ethical issues in brain science selected in the Neuroethics Essay Contest

October 12, 2023 – The International Neuroethics Society (INS) and International Youth Neuroscience Association (IYNA) have selected **Kathryn Petrozzo**, **Jada Wiggleton-Little** and **Abena Amoakowaa Opoku** as the winning authors of the Neuroethics Essay Contest in 2023.

The contest aims to promote interest in neuroethics among students in high school, university, and early career training programs. Neuroethics is a scientific discipline that explores issues involving brain research, emerging technologies, ethics, policy, and law.

Each winner received a 1-year membership to the INS, a \$500 cash prize, and a free registration to participate in the next [INS Annual Meeting](#), April 17-19, 2024. The [winning essays](#) are available to read on the contest website, and a selection of top submissions to the high school category will be published in an upcoming issue of the [IYNA Journal](#).

The following authors were selected as winners for their outstanding submissions in the respective essay categories:

- *Academic:* **Kathryn Petrozzo**, University of Utah (United States) – ‘Mental Health Advance Directives in Psychiatry: Cultivating Autonomy in Mature Pediatric Patients’
- *General Audience:* **Jada Wiggleton-Little**, Cleveland Clinic (United States) – ‘Advances in Objective Measures of Pain at the Cost of the Patient’s Voice’
- *High School:* **Abena Amoakowaa Opoku** (United States) – ‘TDCS: The Intriguing, Uncertain Future of Direct-to-Consumer Brain Stimulation Treatments’

Several essays from each category were named as honorable mentions, and each received a \$250 cash prize. Authors receiving an honorable mention include:

- *Academic:* **Caitlyn A. Tabor**, Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics (United States); **Jennifer L. Brown**, University of Minnesota (United States); **Cindy Chenxin Zhang**, University of British Columbia (Canada);
- *General Audience:* **Jessica Marengo**, Harvard Medical School (United States); **Arish Mudra Rakshasa-Loots**, The University of Edinburgh (India / South Africa / United Kingdom); **Thomas Tannou**, Centre de Recherche de l’Institut Universitaire de Gériatrie de Montréal (Canada);
- *High School:* **Caiqi Li** (United States); **Adam Mulugeta** (Canada);
- *Video:* **Abdul Karim Bah**, Ministry of Health and Sanitation (Sierra Leone)

The contest is organized annually by the members of the [INS Student/Postdoc Committee](#) and editors of the [IYNA Journal](#), and has been [generously supported](#) by a grant from The Dana Foundation and by donations made by Jan Patterson and others in honor of the late Dr. Michael Patterson. Thanks to everyone who participated and made this contest a success!

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