19/05/13 - Ethical considerations in the globalization of medicine. An interview with James Giordano

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Introduction

Prof. James Giordano is Chief of the Neuroethics Studies Program in the Center for Clinical Bioethics, and is on the faculty of the Division of Integrative Physiology, and Graduate Liberal Studies Program at Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA. He is Clark Fellow in Neurosciences and Ethics at the Human Science Center of Ludwig-Maximilians Universität, Munich, Germany, is 2012?2014 William H. and Ruth Crane Schaefer Distinguished Visiting Professor of Neuroethics at Gallaudet University, Washington, DC, and is also a Senior Fellow of the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies ? a Washington-DC area think tank dedicated to the assessment of emerging developments in science and technology, and the ethico-legal and social issues they foster.As a neuroscientist and neuroethicist, his ongoing research includes the neuroethics of pain research and treatment, and also focuses upon the ways that neuroscience and neurobiotechnology research are conducted in various cultures. Prof. Giordano's work addresses the potential for leveraging scientific and technologic power in ? and over ? marginalized populations, and the possibility to exert "biopower" through neuroscientific and neurotechnological capability in regional and global economics and social structures. Also, Prof Giordano's studies assess the limitations of neuroscience and neurotechnology, the persistent unknowns inherent to neuroscientific research, and the problems of informed consent and obtaining clinical equipoise when utilizing these approaches in clinical practice. His research group is working to both evaluate the validity and value of

existing approaches to neuroethics, and to engage discourse toward developing a more cosmopolitan approach to neuroethics that reflects, and could be viable for use in the evermore diverse world-culture of the 21st century.

In this Q&A, we talk to Prof. Giordano about some of the most important ethical problems that should be considered when conducting biomedical research in all types of clinical settings, with particular emphasis on some of the main challenges of research in low-and-middle-income countries.

Citation

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