



International neuroethics patent initiative (INPI)



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Patents aim to protect inventions and provide protection to inventors for their intellectual achievements. Past research from our teams has shown that, in the area of brain science, such protections can extend beyond methods or devices for which they are intended and permitted, and cover regions of brain tissue and even aspects of behaviour that may be recorded or stimulated. Our goal here is to fully examine patents already granted in the field of neuroscience – drugs, software, technology – examine them for their legal viability, and explore perspectives from experts about their potential benefits and risks to individuals, patients and society. The outcome of this work will be both practical guidance for the future of patents in neuroscience, as well as evidence-based recommendations for boundaries that ought to be drawn.

