

## **Neuroscience, National Security, and Human Research Ethics**

Jonathan Moreno, PhD

*Director, Center for Biomedical Ethics*

*Emily Davie and Joseph S. Kornfeld Professor of Biomedical Ethics*

*University of Virginia*

[To view pictures of the event, please click here.](#)

May 20, 2005

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The Faculty Club

College of Physicians & Surgeons

630 West 168th Street

New York, NY 10032

The Center for Bioethics was honored to present our Third Anniversary Distinguished Lecture featuring Dr. Jonathan Moreno, who is the Director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics at the University of Virginia. Dr. Moreno offered a stimulating lecture that addressed the national security establishment's support of research at the intersection of neuroscience and national security. Dr. Moreno suggested how applied science can play a decisive role in changing the face of armed conflict by enhancing, muddling, or erasing memory; monitoring crowds for individuals whose brain patterns correlate with aggressive behaviors; or controlling weapons from afar merely with thoughts. In addition, Dr. Moreno explained that the national security establishment, more specifically the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), is interested in enhancing soldiers' capacity to go without food or sleep, and even to heal their own injuries.

Dr. Moreno effectively argued that such advancements present tough ethical questions which society needs to address. This lecture presented the audience with some challenging and provoking questions about the dangers of such information falling into the "wrong hands," and whether such knowledge is needed for the government to protect society. The ensuing discussion addressed what kinds of ground rules can be set for science and states. Ideas about personal identity and liberty were brought up as well. The audience nearly filled the room and included medical, psychiatric, and legal professionals, bioethicists, students, researchers and friends of the Center.