Housed in the Division of Arts and Humanities, the Institute for Practical Ethics (IPE) at UC San Diego blends top-tier ethics scholarship with cutting-edge science—combined, a science for the common good. By opening the Institute, UC San Diego has formally engaged in the pursuit of becoming a leading voice on the ethics and social impact of new scientific discoveries. Doing so requires leveraging the unique strengths of UC San Diego in the humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, life sciences, and engineering.

We are all excited about the scientific and technological innovation that takes place at UC San Diego and other research institutions. Ingenious mechanical devices make our lives easier, new medical research furthers human health and relieves suffering, and more basic science shows us how the natural world operates.

Yet we must always keep in mind that our scientific and technological activity serves our society, and the best way to ensure this is by examining the social implications and ethics of new science and innovation.
PROGRAMS

The IPE combines ethical research and scholarship in the humanities and humanistic social sciences with work in the physical and life sciences, aiming to increase the volume and quality of ethical research and deliberation on campus. The IPE is designed to be flexible, changing areas of focus as different medical, scientific, and engineering innovations bring issues to the fore.

The inaugural programs are:

**The Ethics and Social Implications of Active Genetics**

In collaboration with the UC San Diego Tata Institute for Genetics and Society, IPE will begin a research program on the ethics and social implications of active genetics. Active genetics uses powerful new techniques in genetic engineering to potentially relieve human suffering. This program will include the formation of the Ethics of Active Genetics Working Group, running workshops on the ethics of active genetics, and the training of scientists.

**The Foundational Questions in Human Enhancement**

Human enhancement is increasingly becoming possible using pharmaceutical, mechanical, or even genetic means. The extent to which it is appropriate for humans to enhance themselves is a perennial question in society, with such debates largely occurring using philosophical or religious ideas. Faculty involved in the IPE are developing a project that would identify the perennial questions and then design social science research that could contribute to these debates.

**The Ethics and Social Implications of Large Scale Data and Data Analytics**

Information on all members of society now exists in various databases, and the ability to analyze enormous amounts of data are re-shaping how governments, businesses, and other entities make decisions. However, ethical standards for data designed for a pre-computer age are of limited utility, and the use of “big data” raises a host of social and ethical questions. The Data Analytics Working Group will examine a range of questions such as the implicit ethics in data-based criminal sentencing programs, autonomous cars, smart-phone medical data gathering, and much more.

**Biomedical Ethics Seminar Series**

The Biomedical Ethics Seminar Series sponsors one speaker a month, followed by discussion. The Seminar is held at the medical school for faculty, staff, and students.

Opposite: Researchers in Calit2’s Nano3 clean room, which facilitates the pursuit of research in emerging, interdisciplinary, and rapidly growing fields such as biomedical and biochemical devices, heterogeneous integrated devices and circuits, and sensor technology.
PHILANTHROPIC OPPORTUNITIES
UC San Diego invites alumni and friends invested in the results of ethical inquiry to consider support of the IPE generally or to one of the following targeted opportunities. Each advances the Campaign for UC San Diego and its signature goals to enhance the student experience, enrich our campus community, and spark research and innovation.

Faculty Excellence
Endowed chairs and endowed faculty fellowships enhance resources for recruiting and supporting scholars focused on inventive, interdisciplinary topics.

Research
Grants and fellowships support new and innovative research, especially important for scholars who require resources to reach milestones in their academic journeys.

Student Support and Experience
Scholarships, internships, and graduate fellowships give students at all stages of their academic journey resources for pursuing interdisciplinary studies. Postdoctoral fellowships offer opportunity for scholars at the earliest stage of their academic careers.

Visiting Professors and Lectures
Visiting scholars connect collaboration and conversation at UC San Diego with experts around the world on such topics as Ethics and Social Implications of Big Data, while events such as lecture series offer our community a view of ethical frameworks as they are developed.

Together with contributions from like-minded alumni, students, parents, and friends, we'll leverage and empower our audacious campus community to make waves here on campus and across the globe.

Help us continue the nontradition.

To learn more, please contact:
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At the University of California San Diego, challenging convention is our most cherished tradition. The Campaign for UC San Diego is a university-wide comprehensive fundraising effort to transform the student experience, our campus, and ultimately the way humanity approaches problems and develops solutions. Learn more at campaign.ucsd.edu.