

First Award for Transforming Education Through Neuroscience: Mary Helen Immordino-Yang

We are happy to announce that Dr. Mary Helen Immordino-Yang was recently honored with the first award for “Transforming Education Through Neuroscience,” established to honor an early career individual who represents excellence in bridging neuroscience and education. Cosponsored by the International Mind, Brain, and Education Society (IMBES) and the Learning and the Brain Conference, the award was presented to Dr. Immordino-Yang at the 19th meeting of the Conference in San Francisco on February 9, 2008.

IMBES was founded to facilitate cross-cultural collaboration in all fields that are relevant to connecting mind, brain, and education in research, theory, and practice, bridging the gap between research and practice in a reciprocal and constructive manner. The breadth of this new field requires a level of integration and multidisciplinary that is difficult to achieve. This year, IMBES is happy to recognize an early career scientist of rare talent and ability, who is building exactly this kind of multidisciplinary collaboration and connection.

Dr. Immordino-Yang has been a seventh-grade teacher and is one of the first to earn a doctorate from Harvard’s Mind, Brain, & Education program. She is presently a joint postdoctoral research fellow at the Brain and Creativity Institute and the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California, where she works with Antonio and Hanna

Damasio. She is a sought-after speaker to teachers and scientists alike and an innovative researcher. “Mary Helen represents the next generation of educator, someone who is as facile talking about neuroscience as she is about education,” said Charles Nelson III, Harvard University and Children’s Hospital in Boston.

Dr. Immordino-Yang’s unique combination of experience, training, and contributions to the field of mind, brain, and education converges in her groundbreaking research and ability to move with facility between the laboratory and the classroom. “What’s so impressive about Mary Helen,” adds Jay Giedd, Chief of Brain Imaging at the Child Psychiatry branch of the National Institute of Mental Health, “is that she brings so much credibility and a pragmatic tone—not like how scientists often talk about what we know and then walk away, leaving it up to someone else to make it happen.”

We are happy to share some of Dr. Immordino-Yang’s contributions to the field of mind, brain, and education in the “Dialogue” section of the current issue. On behalf of IMBES, we offer our sincerest congratulations to Dr. Immordino-Yang, the worthy recipient of our first award for “Transforming Education Through Neuroscience.”

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