

Media Backgrounder for the Institute of Noetic Sciences

Institute of Noetic Sciences

The Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS) has engaged in the rigorous scientific study of the mind since its founding in 1973 and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Through scholarly and scientific research, IONS has pioneered a comprehensive investigation of consciousness and its role in the world, with a special interest in understanding our extended capacities.

Noetic Sciences

Noetic comes from the Greek *noēsis* / *noētikos* and means inner wisdom, direct knowing or subjective understanding. Science, on the other hand, is a system of acquiring knowledge that uses external observation, experimentation and replication to describe and explain natural phenomena. Noetic Sciences is a multidisciplinary field that brings objective scientific tools and techniques together with subjective inner knowing to study the full range of human experience.

IONS' Research

IONS is a leader in developing cutting-edge research to answer questions about the fundamental nature of consciousness and its role in our lives. Our one-of-a-kind, multi-disciplinary team is comprised of scientists with skills and expertise in engineering, physics, computer science, neuroscience, cognitive science, psychophysiology, molecular genetics and clinical research. Some research questions IONS is answering include:

- How do our beliefs and worldviews influence our behavior and well-being?
- How does intuition work and can we amplify our ability to be intuitive?
- What practices support individual and group transformation most effectively?
- Do mind and matter interact, and if so, how?

The IONS science team comes to us from institutions such as Princeton, the University of California, Oregon Health and Sciences University and Northwestern University. They are committed to using rigorous, scientific methods to explore frontier topics, and publish their results in peer-reviewed journals. IONS work is funded by private individuals, foundations and grants.

Education & Engagement

IONS is dedicated to translating its scientific discoveries into applications that people can use in their daily lives. Approximately 75,000 individuals worldwide are currently reached through IONS' community groups, conferences, online

communities and educational programming. IONS provides education and community programming focused on several key areas, including:

- Exploring worldviews for children and teens
- Consciousness and healing
- Extended human capacities
- Transformational practices
- Science and spirituality
- Mindfulness and meditation
- Noetic business and leadership
- Conscious aging

EarthRise Transformational Learning and Retreat Center

IONS operates a transformational learning and retreat center in the rolling hills of Petaluma, just one hour North of San Francisco. EarthRise, a majestic, semi-rural campus, serves as a container for experiential learning, professional development and IONS' pioneering work in human consciousness research.

Earthrise is available for outside organizations to hold single-day meetings, corporate trainings, off-site retreats, workshops, meditation/yoga or transformative practice retreats as well as extended stays. The retreat center accommodates up to 120 people, with simple accommodations and highly-rated farm to table style meals. Over 5,000 guests grace the grounds of this majestic and serene venue annually. EarthRise hosts:

- Scholarly meetings
- Experiential learning and development
- University programs focused on consciousness studies
- Annual strategy meetings for local government, corporate and non-profit organizations
- Mindfulness retreats and professional trainings

Exceptional Scientists & Leaders

IONS groundbreaking science in the area of consciousness exploration stems from its strong leadership and scientific team as well as its unwavering commitment to carry out the mission of its founder. Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar Mitchell, the sixth man to walk on the moon, founded IONS in 1973 after experiencing what he described as a big picture moment -- a profound sense of universal connectedness -- on his return trip to the earth from the moon. His mission for the Institute was to "broaden our knowledge of the nature and potentials of mind and consciousness and to apply that knowledge to the enhancement of human well-being and the quality of life on the planet." Mitchell passed away in February 2016. His pioneering advancements in the exploration of both outer and inner space will be long remembered.

###