

CONSCIOUSNESS: BETWEEN MIND AND BRAIN

The Italian Brain Awareness Event 2012

Rome, 15 March 2012. “**Consciousness: between Mind and Brain**” was the title chosen for one of the most popular Italian event that took place in the worldwide Brain Awareness Week. More than “500 brains” got connected at this event organized in Rome at the University *Regina Apostolorum*.

The Dana Alliance for Brain Initiative sponsored the event involving members of the following academic institutions: *Scuola Internazionale di Specializzazione con la Procedura Immaginativa* (SISPI), the *Faculty of Bioethics* and the *Italian Research Group in Neurobioethics* at the University *Regina Apostolorum*. The dynamic and participated workshop consisted in lectures on brain-related topics around the main theme of consciousness.

The philosophical concept and the neurobiological base of consciousness were discussed together with bioethical implications and with psychodynamic approaches to the modification of the content of consciousness.

More than 500 people of all ages participated: both in Rome, and connected via video-link in other four Italian cities: Noto, Bologna, Cagliari and Brindisi.

The following speakers covered the main philosophical, medical, neuroscientific, and bioethical aspects involved in consciousness: professor Gonzalo Miranda (bioethicist), professor Angela Ales Bello (philosopher), professor Alberto Carrara (philosopher), doctor Paola Ciadamidaro (physician), doctor Riccardo Fesce (neuroscientist), doctor Flavia Valtorta (neuroscientist), and professor Alberto Passerini (psychiatrist).

The sizable participation and the high level of scholarship contributed to increased public awareness of the progress and benefits of brain research, according to the main purpose of Brain Awareness Week (BAW). We are glad to celebrate this important week and to promote more brain awareness in Italy.