“On the return trip home, gazing through 240,000 miles of space toward the stars and the planet from which I had come, I suddenly experienced the universe as intelligent, loving, harmonious.”

Dr. Edgar Mitchell
Apollo 14 Astronaut, 6th person to walk on the Moon, IONS Founder
IONS reveals the interconnected nature of reality through scientific exploration and personal discovery.
February 2020

Dear IONS Friends,

On behalf of our entire staff and Board of Directors, we invite you to explore this annual report to see how your support is advancing the field of noetic sciences.

We invite you to learn how your contributions are helping make a measurable difference in our world.

We invite you to step into a bold future with us — one with a vibrant, mission-driven and ecologically-focused campus for scientific breakthroughs and personal transformation.

Together we’re building on our unique legacy of accomplishing an important shift in worldview — a collective mission of unfolding possibility and new realities where we recognize that everything and everyone is interconnected — and so we really are all in this together.

This reality was tangible in Santa Clara, CA last July at the 18th IONS International Conference. While our speakers inspired from the stage, a magical, transcendent quality pervaded the event floor as participants shared their personal stories of extraordinary experiences of interconnectedness. The encounters we had with each other were like rocket fuel, further empowering our common passion and our mission to lead IONS at this moment in history.

With so much dividing us as people, it’s important to spend time together immersed in what unites us as humankind.

On the pages that follow, you’ll read how we’re accelerating our vision of a noetic future by continuing to sharpen our strategic focus, improve our fiscal health, and advance the stewardship of our “living laboratory” — the sacred land we call EarthRise. A crucial driver of our progress is a profound board-staff partnership that is aligned, impassioned, and intent on making a measurable impact.

As we approach IONS 50th anniversary in 2023, we’re eager to engage and expand our circle of IONS supporters. So yes, you’re invited. You’re invited to join forces with us, to share your dreams of a noetic future with us, and to celebrate our progress as shared in this annual report with us. Our accomplishments are your accomplishments.

With gratitude and positive anticipation,

Claire Lachance
Chief Executive Officer

Claudia Welss
Chairman, Board of Directors
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Alex Morrison, Director, Development and Communications
Rusty Shores, Associate Director, Retreat Center Operations
Kerstin Sjoquist, Director, Experience
Helané Wahbeh, Director, Research
Conducting the largest study ever done on the effects of transformative practices and experiences on wellbeing, self-transcendence, and extended human capacities.

Our “moonshot” — an application-driven, multidisciplinary research program to reliably and robustly demonstrate the influence of human intention on a physical system.

Developing and delivering experiential programs that provide tools and practices to access inner wisdom and experience interconnectedness.

Pillar 1
IONS
Discovery Lab

Pillar 2
IONSx

Pillar 3
Infuse Noetics into Daily Life
Pillar 4  
**Uplift Culture**

Driving communications and partnerships that amplify our work, enabling noetics to permeate and uplift culture around the world.

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Pillar 5  
**Strong Foundation**

Stewarding noetic sciences, safeguarding the field for future generations and aligning people management with noetic values through a sustainable, integrity-driven business model.
WANDER THESE ROLLING HILLS, FEEL THE MAGIC AND MAJESTY

Since 2000, the Institute of Noetic Sciences has served as stewards for this majestic land we call our home — the EarthRise Transformational Learning Center and “Living Laboratory.”

The campus houses our scientific research laboratories and hosts over 6,000 people per year in over 200 workshops, practices, retreats, and experiential modalities that are elevating well-being, creativity, and transformation. At EarthRise we fuse scientific exploration and personal discovery with the amenities of a modern retreat center, all held by this mystical, inspiring land.

Honoring the Miwok indigenous tribes who were the original inhabitants of this land, these 194 acres of rolling hills an hour north of San Francisco continue to serve as a beacon — calling educators, philosophers, coaches, artists, scientists, spiritual masters, and explorers together to deepen an awareness of our interconnection and to explore how this awareness can bring about a noetic future for all.

To learn more or bring your group visit: noetic.org/earthrise

“The whole mystical sensibility that is at the foundation of IONS is palpable, making it an especially wonderful place to hold spiritually related events.”

Marguerite Rigoglioso
Seven Sisters Mystery School
EARTHRISE
TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING CENTER AND "LIVING LABORATORY"
We hypothesize that everything is interconnected, and that embodying this awareness reveals information and energy not limited by space and time, which can profoundly amplify transformation, innovation, and well-being.

For over 45 years, we have been turning the lens of science into the farther reaches of our inner knowing.

With hundreds of experiments and corresponding peer-reviewed published papers, we continue to build a body of knowledge that is helping us unlock the deeper mysteries of what it means to be human at this time in history.

We have come to learn that noetic experiences of intuition, awe, creativity, healing, and more are common and readily accessible to each of us; that bringing a rigorous scientific method to these experiences can allow us to engage with these topics objectively and intelligently; and that this inquiry — revealing the interconnected nature of reality and the true extent of our human capacities — is one of the most important things we can do for the sake of humanity.

IONS represents the frontier of the science of interconnectedness, which is what I live every day as I contemplate humanity’s expanding role among the stars.”

Dr. Yvonne Cagle
NASA Aerospace Surgeon

Learn more about our research at noetic.org/science
Using Sensitive Inanimate Physical Systems as Targets of Intentional Influence

This project seeks to demonstrate that it is possible to control devices at a distance solely by mental means. There are ample examples of conventional brain-computer “telepathy” interfaces, such as Facebook’s Building 8 and Elon Musk’s Neurolink. Unlike these existing neuroscience techniques which decode brain electrical activity, PsiSwitch would operate via direct mind-matter interactions without regard to distance in space or time, and without relying on electromagnetic detecting or signaling. Such a switch would be the basis for communications and control systems that could operate in contexts where conventional methods cannot—such as deep space, deep sea, and through time.

The exciting news: All of the systems tested above show evidence for mind-matter interactions. While the absolute magnitude of the effects are small and the direction of influence is not reliably predictable, our preliminary studies provide enough promising results to continue along this line of research.

Our ongoing research is investigating ways of amplifying these effects to make them more reliable and robust. To that end, we have created a global online platform to more easily test multiple targets and operators simultaneously. Additionally, we are building a framework for performing online experiments where participants mentally attempt to influence various targets such as random number generators.

 PsiSwitch

The Next Phase of PsiSwitch

Our ongoing research is investigating ways of amplifying these effects to make them more reliable and robust. To that end, we have created a global online platform that makes it easier to test multiple targets and operators simultaneously. On this platform, we are building a framework for performing online experiments where participants mentally attempt to influence various targets such as random number generators.

To learn more, visit: noetic.org/ions-x/going-deeper
The IONS Discovery Lab is, to the best of our knowledge, the largest study of its kind on transformative practices. Since launching this project two years ago, we have collected over 1,400 participant surveys from 50 different events, workshops, or experiments.

The study consists of a survey and a series of tasks that are administered to participants — either online or in person — before and after a workshop or event. When taken at our EarthRise campus, we also include 4-channel EEG and EKG recordings.

With the pre- and post- data collected to-date, we have started to explore some profound questions and have begun to unlock the mechanisms embedded in transformational practices that arise in wisdom traditions, extraordinary experiences, and healing modalities.

“Our ancient experience confirms at every point that everything is linked together, everything is inseparable.”

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama
THREE MAIN FACTORS BEING MEASURED:

- Subjective experience of interconnectedness
- Extended human capacities (psi)
- Levels of innovation, well-being, and attitudes toward and experience of transformation

THREE RESEARCH QUESTIONS BEING ASKED:

- What, if any, relationship exists between these three factors?
- Are these factors affected by different practices?
- Do certain participant characteristics influence the factors or the relationships between them?

EARLY ANALYSIS

While the study is ongoing and growing in data points, some early analyses have been revealing.

When we look at the relationship of the three factors with the data we have today, we see that a person’s subjective experience of interconnectedness has a strong positive relationship with multiple factors, increasing with: 1) more years of education, 2) the personality trait of “agreeableness,” 3) a sense of openness, and 4) belief in and experience with the paranormal. Their sense of interconnectedness is also positively related to their well-being.

The remote viewing task also shows interesting results. These tasks measure a person’s ability to describe or give details about a target that is not normally available to our traditional five senses due to distance, time, or shielding. We found that higher remote viewing scores are related to the trait of “positive affect,” or a person’s propensity to experience positive emotions and interact with others and with life’s challenges in a positive way.

Moving from Pilot Phase to Formal Study:
We anticipate completing the pilot phase of this study in mid 2020. We will then analyze the data and begin to develop particular hypotheses that we can test in the formal phase of the IONS Discovery Lab. Additionally, we are translating the survey into additional languages, starting with Spanish and Chinese, to further broaden the scope of the study.

Learn more at noetic.org/blog/idl-early-findings
IONS Channeling Research Program: 2016 to Present

We hypothesize that, at some level, all people have the ability to access information and energy not limited by space and time, and that the way in which we access this and express it can be conceived as our noetic signature – both having similarities with others and yet unique to each individual.

Channeling is a term often used for many aspects of this experience.

The channeling experience exists on a spectrum from very commonplace intuition or gut hunches to the rarer trance channeling where the channeler believes a discarnate being is directly communicating to the listener by accessing the channeler’s body. The channeling phenomenon has been present throughout history, and in many cultures, gathered in texts and anecdotal evidence.

What Can Science Tell Us?

Case studies and experimental evidence document that some information retrieved through channeling is veridical, useful, and otherwise not available through germane circumstances. For example, Edgar Cayce was a trance channel that had a number of his predictions and medical diagnoses verified, and for decades the U.S. Government funded StarGate, a parapsychology research center in which the attributes of psychic abilities were investigated.

Given the length of time channeling has existed among humans, we feel it is important to understand more about these phenomena. By leveraging the scientific method to explore the validity of channeling, we may learn more about how our consciousness transcends our physical bodies, or the nonlocal nature of our consciousness. While some research has been conducted elsewhere, until we launched this program, there were no large, coordinated efforts to answer essential questions on channeling.

Building on decades of previous work at IONS and elsewhere, the IONS Channeling Research Program aims to answer six research questions:

1. What do we already know from published and unpublished resources about channeling?
2. How common is nonlocal consciousness reception and what are its characteristics?
3. How does channeling work?
4. Are there defining characteristics of someone who is able to receive information more easily?
5. Can we verify the information?
6. Is the content useful?
Findings From Our Research

For the last four years, the IONS science team has successfully implemented a comprehensive research program on channeling, using rigorous and systematic methods and resulting in numerous peer-reviewed papers. Our biggest findings include that the channeling phenomenon is common, not reflective of mental health pathology, and has specific and definable characteristics including the positive impact on one's life.

Through our research, we have gained an understanding of how channeling might work, including learning from channeled material many of the qualities that make a channel a channel. We are currently verifying these findings through continued study of biological or genetic involvement. We have also demonstrated that channels can receive verifiable information that they could not have access to otherwise and aim to replicate these findings. Through this holistic and rigorous program, IONS is demystifying channeling, bringing a scientific understanding to a long-practiced and barely understood human phenomena.

To date, we have published over a dozen peer-reviewed papers from this program. We will continue to explore the mechanisms by which the ability to reveal information and energy not limited by space and time manifests in individuals, and how we can harness these abilities to expand our sense of interconnection.

For a deeper investigation of some of our papers on this topic, please visit:
noetic.org/blog/exploratory-study-channeling and noetic.org/channeling-physiological-changes

New Patent Provides Non-Invasive Method to Study Gene Expression

Using a process that’s as easy as gargling, researchers can now gather data to understand how various stimuli activate gene expression in humans. Through a non-invasive method newly patented by IONS Scientist Dr. Garret Yount, study participants can now provide a sample of their RNA by swishing a mouthwash solution for 30 seconds, a painless and preferable alternative to drawing blood with a needle.

Learn more about this patented groundbreaking technology at noetic.org/new-patent
Exceptional Healers Pilot Study

This past year we embarked on one of the largest and most complex research projects in our history, the Exceptional Healers Pilot Study. Over several months, we hosted 17 subtle energy practitioners from a wide variety of modalities. Each practitioner spent a week conducting healing sessions with a total of nearly 200 participants seeking relief from the pain of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.

Phase 1 Is Complete

In this study we focused on people who experience hand or wrist pain. Participants came to our campus and completed a number of questionnaires and physiological tests, along with a 30-minute energy healing session in our electromagnetically shielded chamber. Intake data included the clients’ pre-session expectations about energy healing and their current and past pain symptoms. The physiological tests included heart rate variability and synchrony (between participant and practitioner), wrist nerve conduction velocity, and gene activity via collection of salivary samples using Dr. Yount’s newly patented method. Additionally, we looked at environmental factors through potential changes in quantum noise, in the magnetic field, and with water samples which were analyzed for changes in evanescence, pH, and conductivity.

While we are still analyzing the vast data collected, preliminary findings demonstrate that the pilot study was a resounding success. Perhaps most importantly, the majority of clients reported a reduction in pain from before to after the session, and continued to maintain that pain reduction at the three-week return visit. This demonstrates that this type of study is indeed feasible to pursue on a larger scale.

Regarding the psychobiological mechanisms by which subtle energy is transmitted, the study found that overall heart rate and respiration decreased during the session, while heart rate variability and synchrony increased, indicating greater coherence between healer and participant as the session progressed.

One of the most dramatic results was an environmental measurement using the Quantum Number Generator. It recorded significant deviations in background entropy during the healing sessions as compared to control periods, suggesting that the healing sessions caused entropic ripples in spacetime.

To learn more, please visit: noetic.org/exceptional-healers

The basic aims of the study were threefold:

1. To determine the feasibility and preliminary effects of a study of this type
2. To evaluate the psychobiological mechanisms by which subtle energy practitioners achieve health outcomes
3. To discover the mechanisms by which subtle energy is transmitted from practitioner to receiver
IONS IN THE WORLD

Engaging in Noetic Conversations with His Holiness Dalai Lama
IONS Board Chairman Claudia Wesss was issued a special invitation by the Templeton Foundation to attend a private meeting in New Delhi in April 2019 on the science of mindfulness and compassion with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The meeting was in collaboration with the Center for Contemplative Science and Compassion-Based Ethics at Emory University and was also attended by a delegation of World Economic Forum Young Global Leaders.

Expansion of IONS Partnership with the Octave Institute in China
Members of the IONS team traveled to China three times in 2019 to expand the partnership with the Octave Institute, while members of the Octave team traveled to California in July to participate in the IONS Conference, with founder Fred Tsao serving as a keynote speaker.

IONS CEO Claire Lachance and scientist Dr. Garret Yount participated in the Quantum Leadership Program at Octave’s Sangha Retreat Center in Suzhou in April and July respectively. In November, Claire Lachance and members of the Science Team — Dr. Helané Wahbeh, Dr. Arnaud Delorme, and Dr. Garret Yount — were speakers and group moderators at Octave’s AT ONE Conference and Festival, addressing the theme “New Paradigm: New Era of Well-Being.”

Transpersonal Psychologists Explore Eco-Spiritual Transformation And Channeling
In April 2019, Director of Research Dr. Helané Wahbeh gave a presentation on IONS channeling research to approximately 350 professionals at the Association of Transpersonal Psychology, building on ATP’s commitment to fostering practices and perspectives that will lead to a conscious, co-evolution of society.

The Largest Gathering of Parapsychology Professionals from Around the World
IONS hosted the Parapsychology Association at our Earthrise Campus, the largest international professional organization of scientists and scholars engaged in the study of extended human capacities. IONS Chief Scientist Dr. Dean Radin, joined by our Science Team, taught participants the techniques and standards necessary to achieve rigorous, peer-reviewed scientific publications in this domain.

IONS Research Expanding Into International, Interdisciplinary Fields
In June, IONS Scientist Dr. Arnaud Delorme spoke at The Science of Consciousness 2019 conference in Interlaken, Switzerland, highlighted by Nobel Prize in Physics winner Roger Penrose on Artificial Intelligence, Computation, Physical Law, and Consciousness.
Our international team of physicists, biologists, naturopathic doctors, computer engineers, and more are on the leading edge of their respective fields, leveraging their expertise to further our understanding of noetics.

Helané Wahbeh, ND, MCR, Director of Research
Helané Wahbeh is the Director of Research at the Institute of Noetic Sciences and an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Neurology at Oregon Health & Science University. Dr. Wahbeh is clinically trained as a naturopathic physician and research trained with a Master of Clinical Research and two post-doctoral research fellowships. She has published on and spoken internationally about her studies on complementary and alternative medicine, mind-body medicine, stress, and posttraumatic stress disorder and their relationships to physiology, health, and healing.

Dean Radin, PhD, Chief Scientist
Dean Radin, PhD, is Chief Scientist at the Institute of Noetic Sciences and Associated Distinguished Professor at the California Institute of Integral Studies. Before joining the research staff at IONS in 2001, he held appointments at AT&T Bell Labs, Princeton University, University of Edinburgh, and SRI International. Dr. Radin is author or coauthor of hundreds of technical and popular articles, some 100 peer-reviewed journal articles, four dozen book chapters, and four best-selling books. He has given over 500 invited presentations and interviews for government, military, business, scientific, and popular groups around the world.

Arnaud Delorme, PhD, Scientist
Arnaud Delorme, PhD, is a CNRS principal investigator in Toulouse, France, a faculty member at the University of California, San Diego, and a Scientist at the Institute of Noetic Sciences. He is a long-term Zen meditator, and has taught in India on the neural correlates of conscious experience in a Master’s degree program for the Birla Institute of Technology.

Garret Yount, PhD, Scientist
Garret Yount, PhD, is a Scientist at the Institute of Noetic Sciences. Dr. Yount’s primary interest is bridging molecular neurobiology with aspects of consciousness and the nonmaterial mind. He began his formal studies in consciousness research with a small grant from the Institute of Noetic Sciences in 1995, which allowed him to work with biofield practitioners and spiritual healers in the laboratory.

Loren Carpenter, Scientist
Loren Carpenter revolutionized the entire film industry through inventing rendering and modeling algorithms for image synthesis and visual effects. In 2001, he and two colleagues were awarded the only Oscar statuettes ever given for computer science. He recently transitioned from his position as Senior Research Scientist in Disney/Pixar’s research division to that of a Scientist at IONS.

For full bios of our scientists and fellows, please visit: noetic.org/science/scientists-fellows
SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS


For full list of our peer-reviewed published papers, please visit: noetic.org/science/publications
Noetic thought continues to spread across the globe. In 2019, 24 new Community Groups were launched in 11 countries.

For a full list of community groups, please visit: noetic.org/experience/community-group

IN 2019 WE DELIVERED:

13 Research-Based Programs

To 2,600 New Participants Via Our Online Elearning System
The Possibility Accelerator Formula

IMAGINE | REVEAL | IGNITE

In 2019, we offered Conference attendees a program called The Possibility Accelerator, designed to support them in deepening and embodying the wisdom that was arising for them at our Conference, and provide them with practical tools they could take back into their lives.

Focusing on the concept of a “moonshot,” an ambitious effort to achieve the seemingly impossible, we developed a 60 page Conference workbook that asked questions like: what bold, audacious, future do we want to work for? What transformations do we want to see for ourselves, our families, our communities or the world at large? In the weeks following the Conference we delivered a six-part web-based workshop to almost 200 people, nearly 20% of all conference attendees.

This pilot program proved successful in inspiring people and activating them towards achieving their moonshots. We are currently developing the program for a more formal launch in 2020.

Learn more at noetic.org/experience/possibility-accelerator

Envision the Possibilities

When we imagine, we create neural pathways in our brains, supporting new thoughts and behaviors. Here is an exercise from the Possibility Accelerate to support this process.

Read the following visualization. Then close your eyes, focus inward, breathe in a few centering breaths, and dive into your imagination.

Take the time you need to experience your desired world fully and deeply.

When you are ready, gently open your eyes and note what has bubbled to the surface.

IMAGINE THE WORLD TRANSFORMED

Paint a picture of a thriving future, an existence beyond our current limits and illuminated by the fullness of human potential.

Color it... expand it. Immerse yourself in this possibility and allow the experience to be more and more real.

What aspects of this world don’t currently exist in material reality? What is different about this vision from your typically experience of day-to-day reality?

What has been transformed?
The Possibility Accelerator: Creating Our Future Now

“A miracle is not the intercession of an external divine agency in violation of the laws of physics... It is an expansion of what is possible.”

Charles Eisenstein
Author of Sacred Economics

The IONS International Conference has spanned 28 years, featured over 700 world-renowned speakers, and gathered more than 15,000 people. Throughout the years it has been a place where leading thinkers and wisdom keepers gather to explore topics at the intersection of science, spirituality, social change, and technology.

For our 18th International Conference, we were delighted to return to where we held the first public conference back in 1992 — Santa Clara, California. This year, nearly 900 community members, visionaries, and change makers came together for four days to explore and co-create a future where inner wisdom and science work together to address some of the most pressing issues in our world today.
Featuring over 90 presenters and attendees from over 30 countries from around the world, we explored topics spanning the fields of astrophysics, molecular biology, indigenous wisdom, mind-body healing, consciousness and technology, extraordinary human capacities, and more! It was a truly multidisciplinary and visionary exploration into humanity’s next moonshot.

To watch the videos go to noetic.org/conference

Curating Conversations at the Intersection of Knowledge and Knowing

“Mind expanding! I felt for the first time, in a long time, hopeful for the future of our country and the world. I felt inspired by the people I met and the presenters.”

“An uplifting experience expanding the intellectual, spiritual and experiential qualities of our interconnectedness. I always come away feeling nurtured and more open to shining my light.”
The IONS team continues to strengthen financial performance and stewardship, with three straight years of net income growth and the launch of the IONS 50 initiative to proactively address deferred maintenance and expanded utilization of our campus. Total spending of $4,341,000 toward science and experiential programs is the highest in IONS history, continuing the path of advancing our mission more rapidly than at any time before.
VISIONARY CIRCLE
We express deep gratitude for these generous Visionary Circle Members who have provided for IONS in their estate plans.

Katherine S. Kaiser
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For more information about including IONS in your estate planning, or for any corrections, kindly contact Christie Larson at (707) 779-8215. Our 501(c)(3) charitable registration number is 23-7236986
IONS is funded by visionary explorers committed to bridging science and spirituality. It is because of individuals like these that IONS has thrived for over 45 years.

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Jane Goodall
English primatologist and anthropologist