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Dr. Brody received his B.A. from Brooklyn College and his Ph.D. from Princeton University. He studied at Oxford as a Fulbright Fellow in 1965-66, taught at M.I.T. from 1967 to 1975, and has been at Rice since 1975 and at Baylor College of Medicine since 1982.

Dr. Brody is the author and editor of 25 volumes and 150 articles and chapters. He has served on the Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) for the AIDS Clinical Trials Group, on the NIH's Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee (RAC), on the Protocol Review Committee for the Bone Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network, on the Bioethics Advisory Board of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and on the NASA Bioethics Advisory Board. He was the principal investigator for the "Ethical Issues in Emergency Research" study (funded by the NIH) and he was the head of the coordinating committee for the "Altering Nature" study (funded by the Ford Foundation). He is currently a co-investigator of the "Ethical and Methodological Standards for Trials of Invasive Therapeutic Procedures" (funded by the NIH). He has served on the national board of the American Philosophical Association, is a past president of the Society for Health and Human Values, is a fellow of the Hastings Center and was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 2001.

Dr. Brody is currently working on two research projects. The first relates to ethical issues involved in surgical innovation. With a group of colleagues, he is studying ethical and methodological issues in the conduct of surgical controlled trials, and the extent to which these issues result in many surgical innovations being introduced into clinical practice without supporting evidence from clinical trials. The second relates to the impact of patenting of biotechnological inventions on biomedical research and on clinical practice. These issues have arisen both in biomedical research, where important research tools are patented, and in clinical practice, where patients may not be able to access drugs that they need because of the price of the patented drugs.