

Editor's Foreword

In this issue, authors explore the nature of consciousness after a near-death experience (NDE) and after death. It is the second of a few transition issues between Dr. Greyson's editorship and my own, comprised of material for which Dr. Greyson oversaw the peer review process, that he accepted, and that I endorsed and edited. Through the material in this issue, we address the broad mission of the International Association for Near-Death Studies that includes attention to NDEs as well as to related phenomena.

In the lead article, novice NDE researcher Farnoosh Nouri and I report the findings from her doctoral dissertation at the University of North Texas. In response to publication of numerous anecdotes and some informal studies of electromagnetic aftereffects of NDEs, in which electrical devices are reportedly much more prone to malfunction in the vicinity of near-death experiencers (NDErs), we conducted a systematic survey. Our results lent support to the notion that such effects are, indeed, greater in the aftermath of NDEs and led us to question how future researchers might measure such effects objectively.

For the next article, veteran NDE researcher Kenneth Ring felt compelled to emerge briefly out of retirement to describe events in the aftermath of the death of a dear friend and veteran NDEr, Tom Sawyer. These events involved after-death communication that strongly suggested the ongoing existence and purposeful activities of Tom's consciousness.

Finally, in an exchange of Letters to the Editor, Brian Miller and Denis Purcell discuss the nature of the relationship between consciousness and electromagnetic phenomena as well as the potential to measure the latter. Their exchange furthers discussion from Dr. Nouri's and my article and applies as well to Dr. Ring's, addressing the implications of positive results from such measurements for the hypothesis that consciousness survives physical death.

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