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100 years of MPI-BR

01 May 28, we celebrated the official opening of the new Institute's building as well as hundred years of MPI for Brain Research (MPI-BR) with a morning of talks and the opening of our commemorative exhibit, *minds in motion* (see below), the unveiling of a commissioned piece of art, *Mindscape*, by [Gayle Chong Kwan](http://www.gaylechongkwan.com) and a book, *minds in motion – 100 years*, chronicling the history and future directions of our Institute.

The morning talks in the Lecture Hall of the new building included presentations from [Boris Rhein](#) (Hessen Minister of Science and Arts), as well as [Gunter Henn](#) (architect of the building), [Herbert Jäckle](#) (Vice President of the Max Planck Society) and a joint lecture by [Wolf Singer](#) and [Heinz Wässle](#) (Emeritus Directors at the Institute) about the Institute's history. Musical intermezzos were provided by [Alex Jacobowitz](http://www.alexjacobowitz.com) who played the xylophone.

For more information please visit our website www.brain.mpg.de/mindsinmotion



Photo: Tracy Yamawaki



Photo: Tracy Yamawaki

The Exhibition "minds in motion"

the exhibition "100 years of MPI, minds in motion" was opened on May 28, 2014. The exhibition is located in the public area of the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research and can be visited during week days between 8.00-18.00 hours.

Free guided tours (for more than 8 people) are available on request (mindsinmotion@brain.mpg.de). The exhibition is set up around five different stations. **Station 1** features three multi-touch monitors, which show research movies as well as interviews with many of our people, whereas **station 2** describes the current and past research topics starting with the fundamental and clinical research of the founding directors **Oskar** and **Cécile Vogt** and concluding with the research interests of our current directors.

Although the predecessor of our Institute was located in Berlin around 1900, important brain research also was conducted at two different locations in Frankfurt, as depicted in **station 3**.

For example, **Alois Alzheimer** worked at the mental hospital, known as "Affenstein" (currently the Westend Campus of the Goethe University). Two of the fathers of neuroanatomy, **Korbinian Brodmann**, (at a later stage a colleague of **Cécile** and **Oskar Vogt** in Berlin), and **Franz Nissl** also worked there. **Paul Ehrlich**, **Karl Weigert** and **Ludwig Edinger** worked at the Senckenberg Institute in down-town Frankfurt.

A quick tour of the early years is provided in **station 5** of the exhibition.

Support for families and future scientists

the MPI for Brain Research is committed to a family-friendly career model. The Institute has its Kids' Room and an on-campus day-care center, the Kairos Kita is scheduled to open in 2015.

Part of the minds in motion exhibit (**station 4**) is devoted to recognition of female scientists and discussion of gender imbalance and what can be done to decrease it.

In order to raise girl's interests in science, the Institute hosted 14 female high school students for the Girls' Day on March, 27. Following a short introductory talk by our Managing Director, **Erin Schuman**, the girls enjoyed a day doing experiments in the Institute's Teaching Lab.



Photo: Max Heumüller

The anniversary book (84 pages and in English or German) is available for 15 Euro by sending an email to mindsinmotion@brain.mpg.de.

More news from our Institute

A new director: Moritz Helmstaedter

moritz Helmstaedter will join the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research as its third director in the beginning of August. *Moritz Helmstaedter* was trained as a graduate student with Nobel Laureate and MPI director *Bert Sakmann* and did postdoctoral work with *Winfried Denk* (MPI for Medical Research, Heidelberg) where he worked with a team to develop methods to reconstruct brain circuits in 3 dimensions using electron microscopy.



Moritz Helmstaedter

Although often depicted differently, brain areas are densely packed with neurons, brain cells which typically have around 1000 connections with their neighbors – both near and far. This leads to huge data sets, even when only a small brain area is analyzed, requiring new analytic methods. Interestingly, *Moritz* has figured out a way to let the public analyse the data – he developed games for young people where parts of the data are presented and gamers need to select the right connection. By using the assistance of gamers, he hopes to make huge steps in analysing the data.

For more information, please watch his presentation on TEDx Vienna.
www.tedxvienna.at/blog/moritz-helmstaedter-brain-mapping/

Circuits in neuroscience: Join us

continuing our celebrating our 100-years anniversary celebration and the new Institute's building, we will host a scientific symposium "Circuits in Neuroscience" September 24-25, 2014.

Renowned neuroscientists, including *Christine Holt* (University of Cambridge), *Mu-Ming Poo* (UC Berkeley), *Carla Shatz* (Stanford University), *Richard Tsien* (New York University), *Daniel Choquet* (Institute for Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Bordeaux), *Valentina Emiliani* (LNNM Paris), *Michael Roukes* (Caltech), *Daniel Wolpert* (Cambridge University), *Eve Marder* (Brandeis University), *John O'Keefe* (University College London), *Winfried Denk* (MPI of Neurobiology), *Albert Lázlo-Barabasi* (Northeastern University), *Leslie Vosshall* (Rockefeller University), *Ernst Bamberg* (MPI of Biophysics), *Larry Abbot* (Columbia University), *Catherine Dulac* (Harvard University), *Edvard Moser* (Norwegian University of Science and Technology) will speak about recent breakthroughs in the field. To stimulate scientific exchange, a get-together is planned on the evening of September 24, when *Heinz Wässle* and *Wolf Singer* will give a lecture on the Institute's history. Except for travel and accommodation costs, the symposium is free of charge. Lunch is self-catered, but lunch boxes (10 Euro each) can be ordered online.

More information: Participants should register by using the module available on the website.
www.brain.mpg.de/openingsymposium

Selected recent publications

Laan, A., Gutnick, T., Kuba, M.J., *Laurent, G.* (2014) Behavioral analysis of cuttlefish traveling waves and its implications for neural control. *Curr Biol.* Jul. 15. pii: S0960-9822(14)00743-X. doi: 10.1016/j.cub.2014.06.027.

