Circuits in Neuroscience

On September 24-25, 2014, the opening symposium “Circuits in Neuroscience” was organised in a lecture hall at the Science Campus Riedberg (less than 500 meters from our Institute), the 350 participants were offered lectures by renowned neuroscientists, including Christine Holt, Mu-ming Poo, Carla Shatz, Richard Tsien, Daniel Choquet, Valentina Emiliani, Michael Roukes, Daniel Wolpert, Eve Marder, John O’Keefe, Johannes Letzkus, Tatjana Tchumatchenko, Albert Lázlo-Barábasi, Leslie Vosshall, Ernst Bamberg, Winfried Denk, Catharine Dulac and Edvard Moser. In the evening of September 24, we had a great get-together with all participants, including former employees of the Institute, in the new building, with lectures by Heinz Wässle and Wolf Singer about the pedigrees of the current Directors and important chapters of the Institute’s history.

We thank all the speakers at the symposium for celebrating with us, as well as all the participants. Special thanks to benefactors of the symposium, which include Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation, Friends of the Frankfurt Max Planck Institute for Brain Research, Goethe Graduate Academy, Coherent, Life Technologies and Nespresso.

Website
www.brain.mpg.de/openningsymposium

John O’Keefe and Edvard Moser (here on the photo together with Gilles Laurent, Erin Schuman and SAB Chair Yves Fregnac) received news about the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2014 only ten days after being in Frankfurt am Main. Unfortunately, the third 2015 Nobel Prize winner May-Britt Moser was unable to attend our symposium.
Teaching Lab hosts project “Du denkst Zukunft!”

Several events were organised in the Teaching Lab in the past year. These include the 2014 Girls’ Day, classes for IMPRS students on electrophysiology, neurobiology and imaging, as well as demos for Community College.

On October 31, a group of seven high-school students did experiments at the Teaching Lab. These students applied via the project “Du denkst Zukunft!” and learned how to isolate DNA from fruits, stain different parts of cells, and how to cut slices from the hippocampus, a part of the cortex, which is responsible for learning and memory. The practical day at the Institute followed the project days, which focused on Alzheimer’s disease, at different local high-schools earlier in 2014.

Daycare center “Kairos” to be opened in June next year

together with the Goethe University, the Max Planck Society is building a new daycare center, called “Kairos-Kita” on Science Campus Riedberg. Pedagogic operator will be the “Gesellschaft zur Förderung betrieblicher und betriebsnaher Kindereinrichtungen e.V.”

A total of nine groups for infants and kids from three months to six years of age will be established. 25% of the places are reserved for kids from Frankfurt-Riedberg or for student’s kids, while the remaining 75% will be workplace-related, two thirds for the Goethe University and one third for the Max Planck Society.

Selected recent publications


Moritz Helmstaedter gave a talk at caesar

With the caesarius lecture series, the Center of Advanced European Studies and Research (caesar) wants to show the general public how exciting and fascinating science and research can be.

On November 6, 2014, Moritz Helmstaedter (since August 2014 Director at our Institute) gave a talk (in German title: “Karten des Denkens: die Vermessung neuronaler Netzwerke”) about brain mapping at this lecture series, which was recorded and is now available via Youtube.

More information
http://www.caesar.de/caesarium-archiv0.html

Our people at the MPI

- 211 Institute’s members
- 50% female and 50% male
- 51% scientific and 49% support staff
- overall 20% not from Germany (45% for scientific staff)
- 25 nationalities (November 2014)

First Hertie Foundation Lecture

On November 12, 2014, Pico Caroni (Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research, Basel, Switzerland) gave the first Hertie Foundation Lecture. His inspiring talk about circuit mechanisms for long-term memory consolidation was visited by many interested neuroscientists.

The Association Friends of the Frankfurt Max Planck Institute for Brain Research would like to thank the Hertie Foundation for their generous support.

More information
www.brain.mpg.de/caroni
New generation of IMPRS students

in the Fall of 2014, eight new doctoral students of the International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) for Neural Circuits started their studies. The first six to nine months will consist of a quite intensive education program, which includes rotations in up to two different research labs in Frankfurt and two courses about modern techniques and modern topics in neuroscience. These also include four Master Classes, interactive evening lectures by excellent neuroscientists.

New IMPRS students are Alessandro Coatti, Bruno del Papa, Bettina Hein, Patrick Jendritza, Liane Klein, Lisa Kochen, Hua-Peng Liaw and Mantian Wang. In addition, IMPRS is already recruiting for its next generation of doctoral students starting in 2015. The deadline for the fifth round is January 15, 2015.

More information:
www.imprs.brain.mpg.de

2015 Upcoming Neuroscience Lectures
(all Lectures start at 11:00 hours at the Institute’s Lecture Hall)

14.01.2015 Ehud Ahissar (Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel), Title: “Closed-loop perception: A specific implementation of embodied cognition”
21.01.2015 Tony Movshon (New York University, USA), Title: “Cortical and perceptual processing of visual form”
04.02.2015 Nigel Emptage (University of Oxford, UK)
18.02.2015 Neil Burgess (University College London, UK)
04.03.2015 Zoltan Molnar (University of Oxford, UK)
18.03.2015 Yishi Jin (UC San Diego, USA)
25.03.2015 Jeffrey Magee (Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Janelia Farm, USA)
15.04.2015 Simon Laughlin (University of Cambridge, UK)
22.04.2015 Hannah Monyer (University of Heidelberg, Germany)
20.05.2015 Oscar Marin (Instituto de Neurociencias, Alicante, Spain)

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