



NEUROSCIENCE mini-symposium From Perception to Decision **WILLIAM NEWSOME** Stanford University

The US BRAIN Initiative: What, Why and How?

10:00AM, July 10

In April of 2013, President Obama announced a grand challenge for US scientists to unlock the mysteries of the human brain. A committee of distinguished neuroscientists was appointed by Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, to review the current state of the field, identify important new research opportunities and goals, and produce a national plan for achieving those goals. The committee identified neural circuits and networks as a particularly promising area of research over the next decade, as described in an extensive report that is available on the NIH BRAIN website. The goal is to map the circuits of the brain, measure the fluctuating patterns of electrical and chemical activity flowing within those circuits, and understand how their interplay creates our unique cognitive and behavioral capabilities. This research agenda will be accelerated by revolutionary new technological developments that permit acquisition of neural data sets of unprecedented sophistication. Dr. William Newsome, co-chair of the NIH planning committee, will describe the project: what it is, why it is important, and how it can be achieved.

About the Speaker

Bill Newsome is an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Professor of Neurobiology at the Stanford University School of Medicine. He received a B.S. degree in physics from Stetson University and a Ph.D. in biology from the California Institute of Technology. Dr. Newsome is a leading investigator in systems and cognitive neuroscience. He has made fundamental contributions to our understanding of the neural mechanisms underlying visual perception and simple forms of decision making. Among his honors are the Rank Prize in Optoelectronics, the Spencer Award, the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award of the American Psychological Association, the Dan David Prize of Tel Aviv University, the Karl Spencer Lashley Award of the American Philosophical Society, and the Champalimaud Vision Award. His distinguished lectureships include the 13th Annual Marr Lecture at the University of Cambridge the 9th Annual Brenda Milner Lecture at McGill University, and most recently, the Distinguished Visiting Scholar lectures at the Kavli Institute of Brain and Mind, UCSD. He was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences in 2000, and to the American Philosophical Society in 2011.

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