Mapping the Mind

Ralph Greenspan

Director , Center for Brain Activity Mapping Professor in Residence , Biology and Department of Cognitive Science Adjunct Professor of Systems Neuroscience , College of Life Sciences

CURRENT RESEARCH

Demystifying the brain to better understand human behavior

Dr. Ralph Greenspan of University of California, San Diego inspiration to study the brain came from a sense of awe he had when thinking about some of biology's most basic questions: How do we actually think, learn, and understand? Why do we remember certain things and not others? And how many different parts of the brain work together simultaneously to accomplish these seemingly simple tasks? His hope is that soon we will be able to see comprehensively what is occurring in the whole brain in real time (something that has never before been achievable) in order to understand our choices and what affects them, as well as certain diseases of the brain and how to better diagnose and treat them.

- As one of the scientists who spawned President Obama's"Grand Challenge" to revolutionize our understanding of the human brain and mind, Dr. Greenspan has set up the Center for Brain Activity Mapping at University of California, San Diego.
- Their goal is to record from every neuron in the brain at the same time. They are striving to map the brain in a way that has never before been possible.
- This multidisciplinary research is unprecedented and will require neurobiologists and nanoscientists to work together to coordinate research and innovate to push the next frontier in brain exploration.

This research is multi-faceted in nature and therefore the impacts will reach far beyond neurobiology into the worlds of medicine and technology. There are tremendous medical benefits in learning how to better understand and treat diseases of the brain and psychiatric illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, autism and chronic depression. Once they are able to read the whole brain in...

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AFFILIATION

University of California, San Diego

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Biology 1979 ,Brandeis University

RESEARCH AREAS

Life Science, Neurological / Cognitive

FUNDING REQUEST

Your donations will go directly towards technologies aimed at improving our ability to monitor whole brain activity. This will open the doors beyond current technologies such as MRIs that provide only faint traces of the broad networks of neurons that exist in the brain and a slow, minimal picture of associations between these networks.

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