A detailed microscopic image of a neuron, showing a large, rounded cell body (soma) with several long, thin processes (dendrites and an axon) extending outwards. The neuron is illuminated against a dark background, highlighting its complex structure and the branching nature of its processes.

# The Human Brain Project:

An interplay between biology, theory and neuromorphic circuit design

Alain Destexhe  
UNIC, CNRS, Gif sur Yvette

<http://www.humanbrainproject.eu>

# FET Flagships

- Large-scale, science-driven, visionary research initiatives
- Unifying goal
- Leading to : Technological innovation  
economic exploitation  
benefits for society

Duration : 10 Years

Budget : up to 100 MEuro per year



Federated effort of European research community and institutions, national and regional funding agencies, industry, global partners

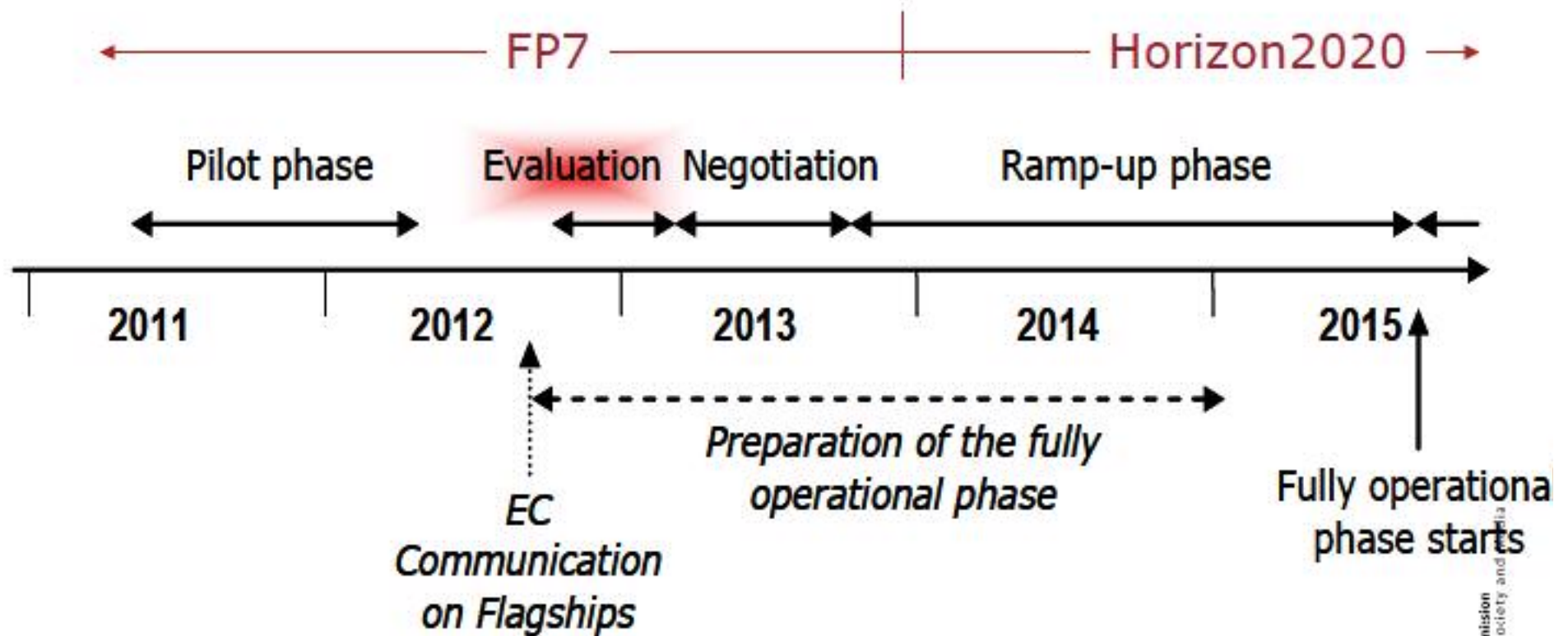


RAFT



# FET Flagships Timeline

## FET Flagships timeline



# 6 Approved Coordination Actions (Pilot Projects) May 2011 – May 2012

**FuturICT:** *The FuturICT Knowledge Accelerator and Crisis-Relief System:  
Unleashing the Power of Information for a Sustainable Future*

**Graphene:** *Graphene Science and technology for ICT and beyond*

**Guardian Angels:** *Guardian Angels for a Smarter Planet*

**HBP:** *The Human Brain Project*

**ITFoM:** *The IT Future of Medicine*

**RoboCom:** *Coordination Action for the Design and Description of the FET  
Flagship Candidate Robot Companions for Citizens*





## 2 Approved Flagship Projects February 2013

**Graphene:** *Graphene Science and technology for ICT and beyond*

**HBP:** *The Human Brain Project*





# HBP

## The Human Brain Project

### **HBP in a nutshell**

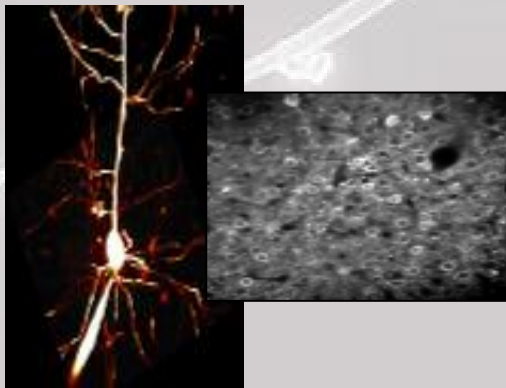
- to integrate neuroscience and clinical data from around the world into unifying computer models of the human brain
- to simulate the behavior of these models
- to develop applications for medicine and future computing

Currently partner groups from 22 countries, including all major EU member states as well as Switzerland, the USA, Japan and China.

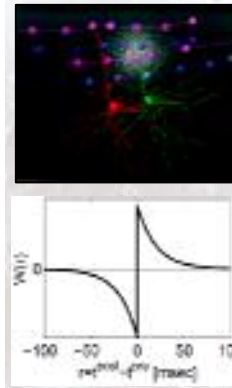
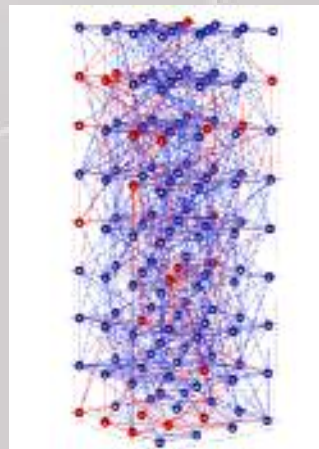
When fully operational, a science and engineering workforce of approximately 200 laboratories

# Biologie-Computation-Hardware

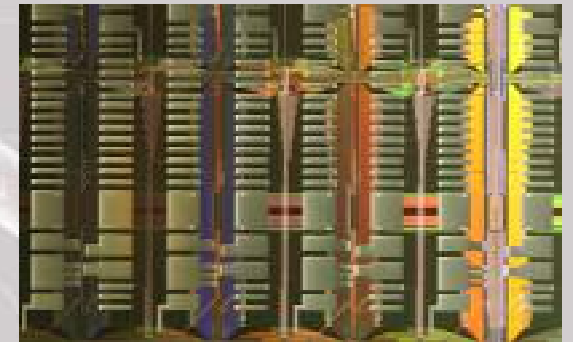
Comme des projets précédents tels que **FACETS** ou **BRAINSCALES**, un des objectifs du **Human Brain Project** est de comprendre la fonction et l'interaction entre les différentes **échelles spatiales et temporelles** du traitement d'information cérébrale, sur base de **l'experimentation *in vivo*** et de **l'analyse computationnelle**. Les principes théoriques génériques sont extraits et formalisés sous forme mathématique, pour ensuite les intégrer sur des **circuits neuromorphiques**.



Expérimentation  
Biologique



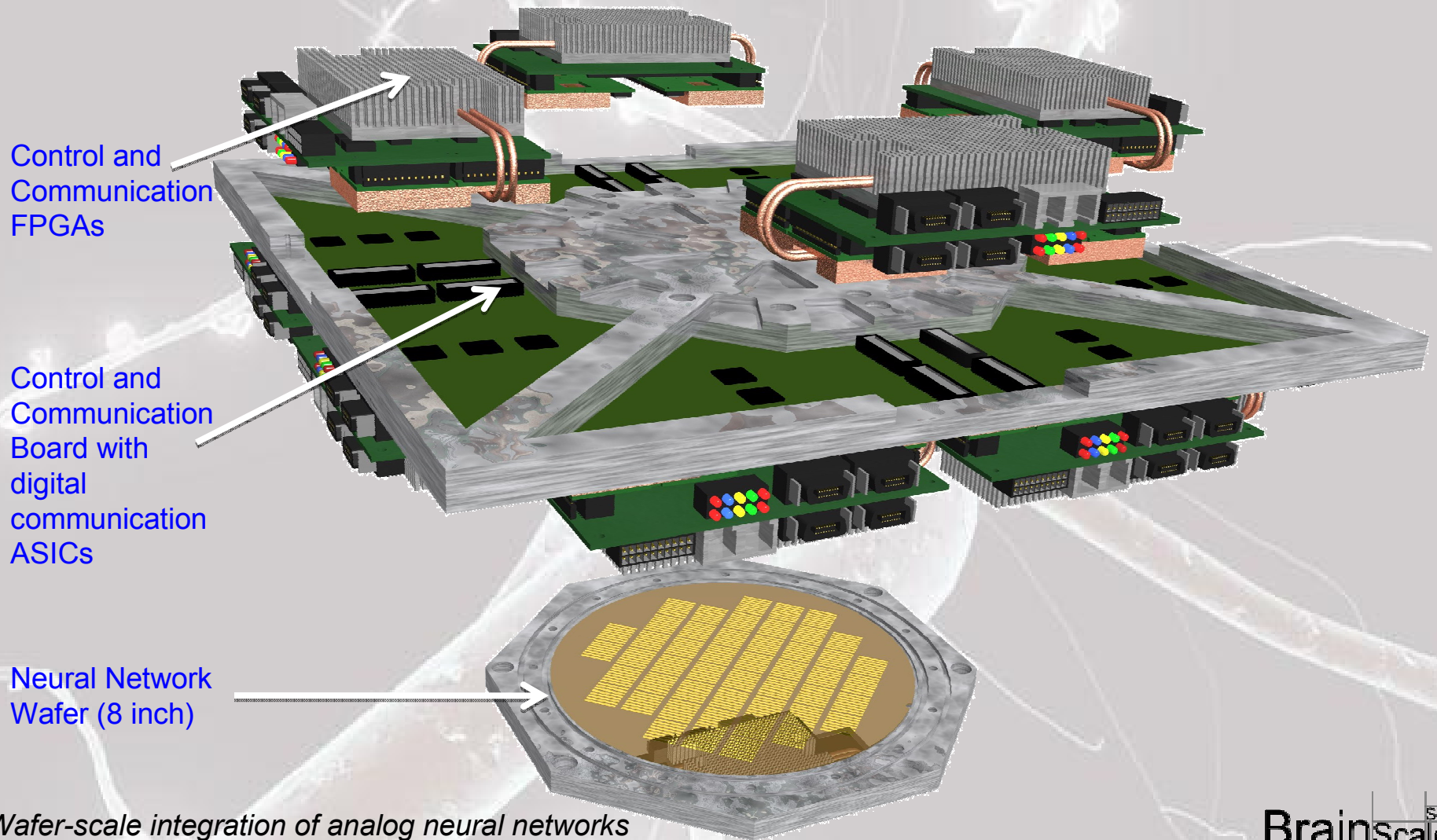
Modèles théoriques  
Analyse mathématique  
Simulation numérique



Circuits  
Neuromorphiques



# “BrainScales” (FET IP) Neural Processing Unit, Up to 200,000 neurons, 50,000,000 synapses, Separation of Neural Circuits and Monitoring/Readout/Control



Control and  
Communication  
FPGAs

Control and  
Communication  
Board with  
digital  
communication  
ASICs

Neural Network  
Wafer (8 inch)

*Wafer-scale integration of analog neural networks*

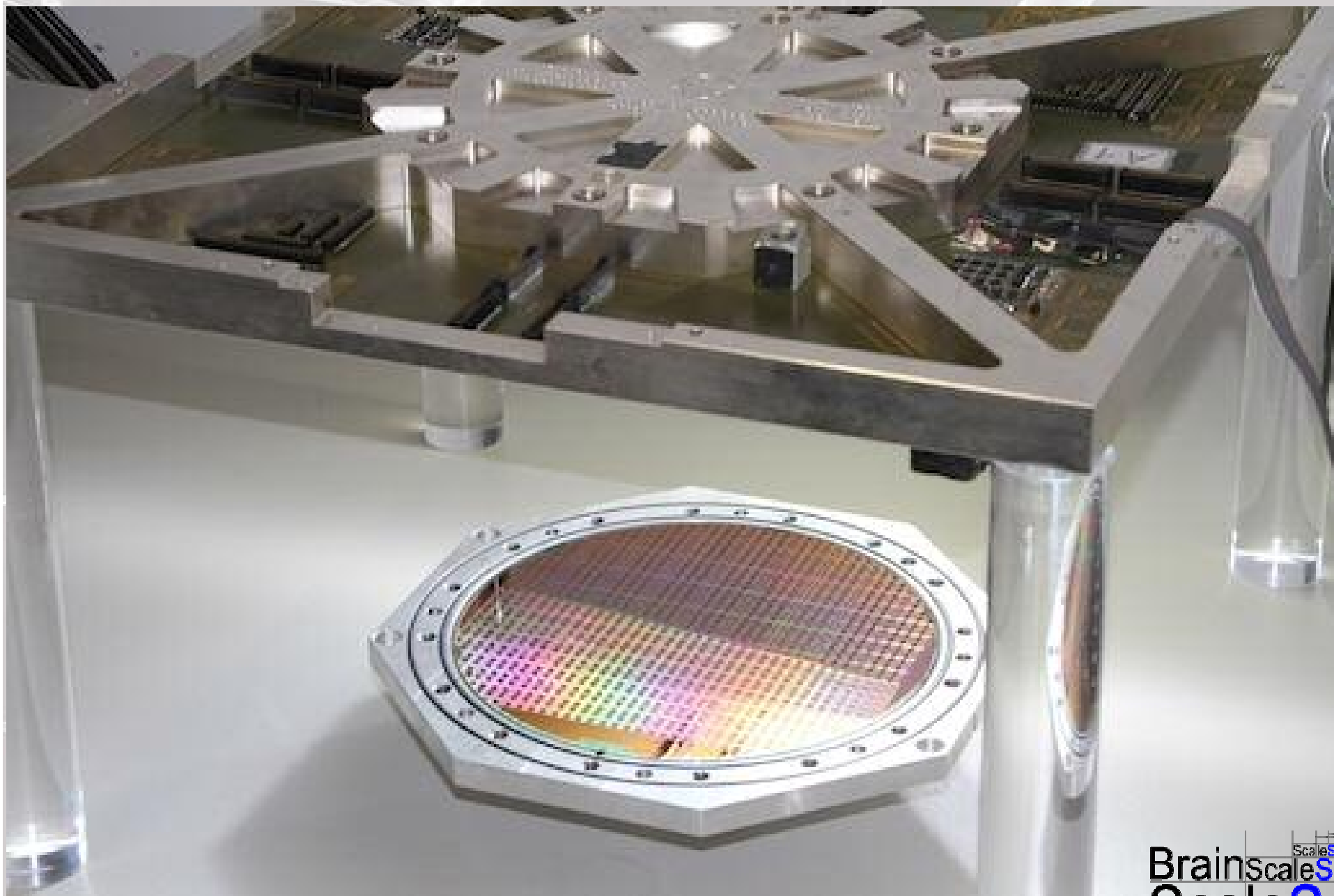
J. Schemmel, J. Fieres and K. Meier

In : Proceedings of IJCNN (2008), IEEE Press, 431

Brainscales  
Scales



## “BrainScales” (FET IP) Neural Processing Unit



## 8 Research Challenges of HBP

- From the basic constituents of the brain to behavior and cognition
- The neural code : How the brain represents information
- Foundations of consciousness
- The uniqueness of the human brain
- Simulation and prediction of diseases and therapies
- Beyond Turing :  
Implementing brain inspired computing paradigms
- Brain inspired computing paradigms outside biology
- High performance computing as a scientific instrument



# Structure of the HBP

**3 RESEARCH AREAS** Brain Simulation – Brain Disease – Future Computing

**12 PILLARS** Provide scientific **excellence** in scientific key **disciplines**

**7 FACILITIES** Provide **capabilities** through European HBP Research Labs

**CHALLENGES** Perform interdisciplinary, curiosity driven and applied **research using** pillar excellence and facility capabilities

# Implication of France

## 3 Pillar Directors:

Cognitive neuroscience

Theoretical neuroscience

Ethics

Stanislas Dehaene (CEA, NeuroSpin)

Alain Destexhe (CNRS)

Jean-Pierre Changeux (Pasteur)

## Many Core Partners:

INRIA (Faugeras, Thirion), CEA (NeuroSpin, LETI), CNRS (Destexhe, Brunel, Frégnac, Renaud, ...), INSERM (Brice, Jirsa), ENS (Triller), Pasteur, UPMC, ...



# Pillars : Future Computing

*what will they provide ? – a few selected items*

## High Performance Computing

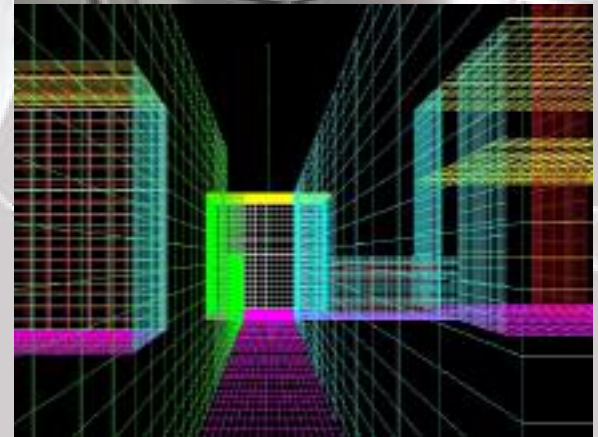
- Interactive, visual. Exascale supercomputing
- Massive distributed volumes of heterogeneous data
- Convergence with neuromorphic technology

## Neuromorphic Computing

- First large-scale neuromorphic systems superior to HPC
- Non-von Neumann (Multicore) + non-Turing (Neuromorph)
- Technology integration (3D, non-CMOS backends)

## Neurorobotics

- Virtual robots with two-way, closed loop interfaces
- Link to brain models and neuromorphic systems
- Physical prototypes and applications



# European HBP Facilities in the Future Computing Research Area

**High Performance Computing Platform** (Jülich, major installations also in Barcelona, EPFL, CSCS)

**Neuromorphic Computing Platform** (Heidelberg)

**Neurorobotics Platform** (Munich)

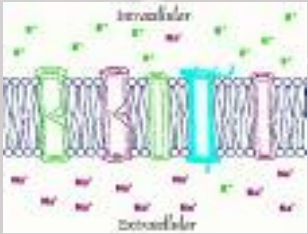
**European Institute for Theoretical Neuroscience** (Paris)

*HBP Facilities and Institutes are seeds for a **sustained impact** in the European research landscape in **research, training and teaching***

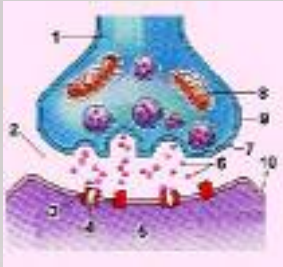


# HBP Theoretical Neuroscience

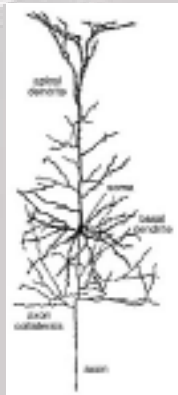
## Echelles spatiales du cerveau



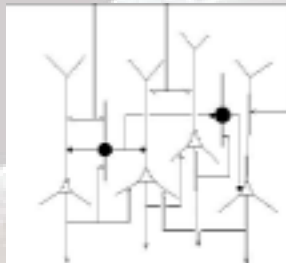
Moléculaire (~10 nm)



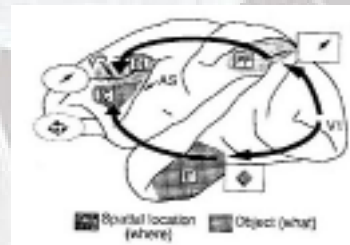
Sub-cellulaire (100 nm - 1 µm)



Neurone (10 µm - 1 mm)



Circuits locaux (100 µm - 1 mm)

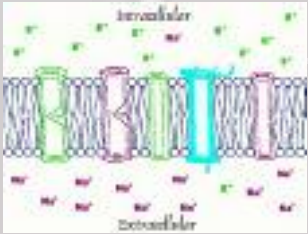


Aire corticale (~1 cm)



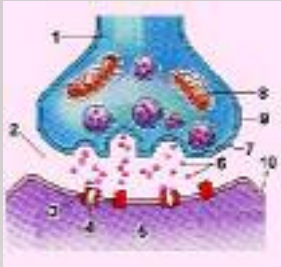
Cerveau (~10 cm)

# HBP Theoretical Neuroscience

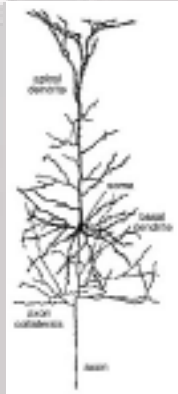


Moléculaire (~10 nm)  
Biochimie, Bio Mol.

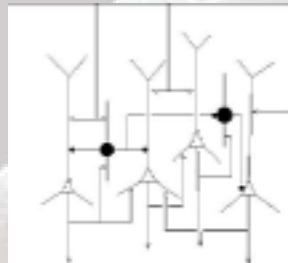
Echelles spatiales du cerveau  
+ Techniques expérimentales



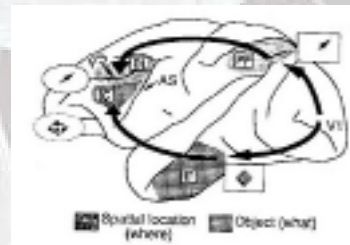
Sub-cellulaire (100 nm - 1 µm)  
Microscopie électronique



Neurone (10 µm - 1 mm)  
Enregistrement intracellulaire, patch clamp



Circuits locaux (100 µm - 1 mm)  
VSD, multi-électrode, 2-photon



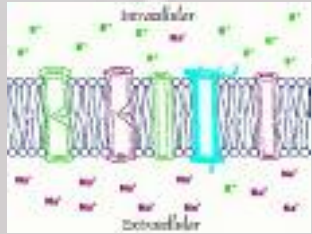
Aire corticale (~1 cm)  
VSD, fMRI



Cerveau  
(~10 cm)  
fMRI, EEG, MEG

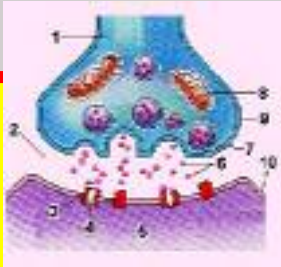


# HBP Theoretical Neuroscience



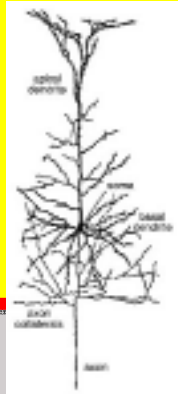
Moléculaire (~10 nm)  
Biochimie, Bio Mol.

Echelles spatiales du cerveau  
+ Techniques expérimentales

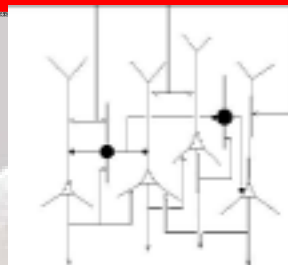


Sub-cellulaire (100 nm - 1 µm)  
Microscopie électronique

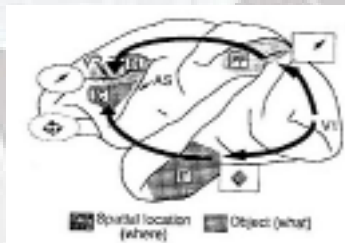
BlueBrain



Neurone (10 µm - 1 mm)  
Enregistrement intracellulaire, patch clamp



Circuits locaux (100 µm - 1 mm)  
VSD, multi-électrode, 2-photon

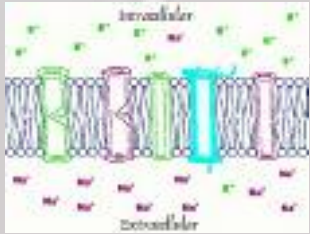


Aire corticale (~1 cm)  
VSD, fMRI



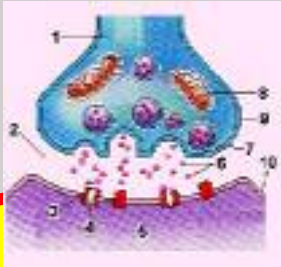
Cerveau  
(~10 cm)  
fMRI, EEG, MEG

# HBP Theoretical Neuroscience

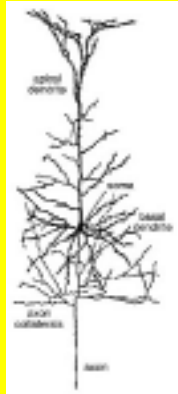


Moléculaire (~10 nm)  
Biochimie, Bio Mol.

Echelles spatiales du cerveau  
+ Techniques expérimentales

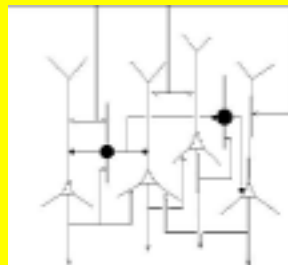


Sub-cellulaire (100 nm - 1 µm)  
Microscopie électronique

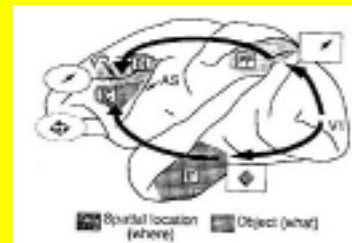


Neurone (10 µm - 1 mm)  
Enregistrement intracellulaire, patch clamp

## Human Brain Project



Circuits locaux (100 µm - 1 mm)  
VSD, multi-électrode, 2-photon



Aire corticale (~1 cm)  
VSD, fMRI



Cerveau  
(~10 cm)  
fMRI, EEG, MEG

# HBP Theoretical Neuroscience

## Pillar Goals

- **Main Goal:** extract mathematical concepts of brain-style computation that can guide the research in the Simulation and HPC fields and are portable to applications in neuromorphic engineering, neuroscience, and robotics.
- **Sub goal 1:** **Bridge different levels of description**, from detailed to abstract models, and different scales from single cells to large networks of neurons.
- **Sub goal 2:** **Develop learning algorithms** that can structure experimental data and simulations of synaptic plasticity for memory formation.
- **Sub goal 3:** **Develop large-scale models of cognitive functions**, such as spatial navigation, decision making, up to the mechanisms of sensory perception and consciousness.
- **Sub goal 4:** **Investigate general principles of neural computation**, which can be transferred to other disciplines beyond neuroscience.

# HBP Theoretical Neuroscience

## Open Calls

**European flagships:** new concept, open structure, new partners can join during the project

**Competitive calls:** Mechanism to involve new partners, consists of project grants representing **20% of the total HBP budget** (in principle close to 200 Million Euros over 10 years). Competitive calls serve to augment the capacities of the HBP consortium. The scientific themes of the competitive calls are decided by the partners, who identify areas where an external contribution is necessary.

**Open calls:** A significant proportion of competitive calls will be “open” to any subject in relation to the research done in HBP. In this case, it is up to the external partner to decide and describe how this contribution is fitting with HBP.

**Open calls in theoretical neuroscience:** one of the justifications of the European Institute for Theoretical Neuroscience is to involve new theoreticians in the project, to maintain this quickly-changing area very active (involve new theories etc), and this is supposed to happen through the open calls.



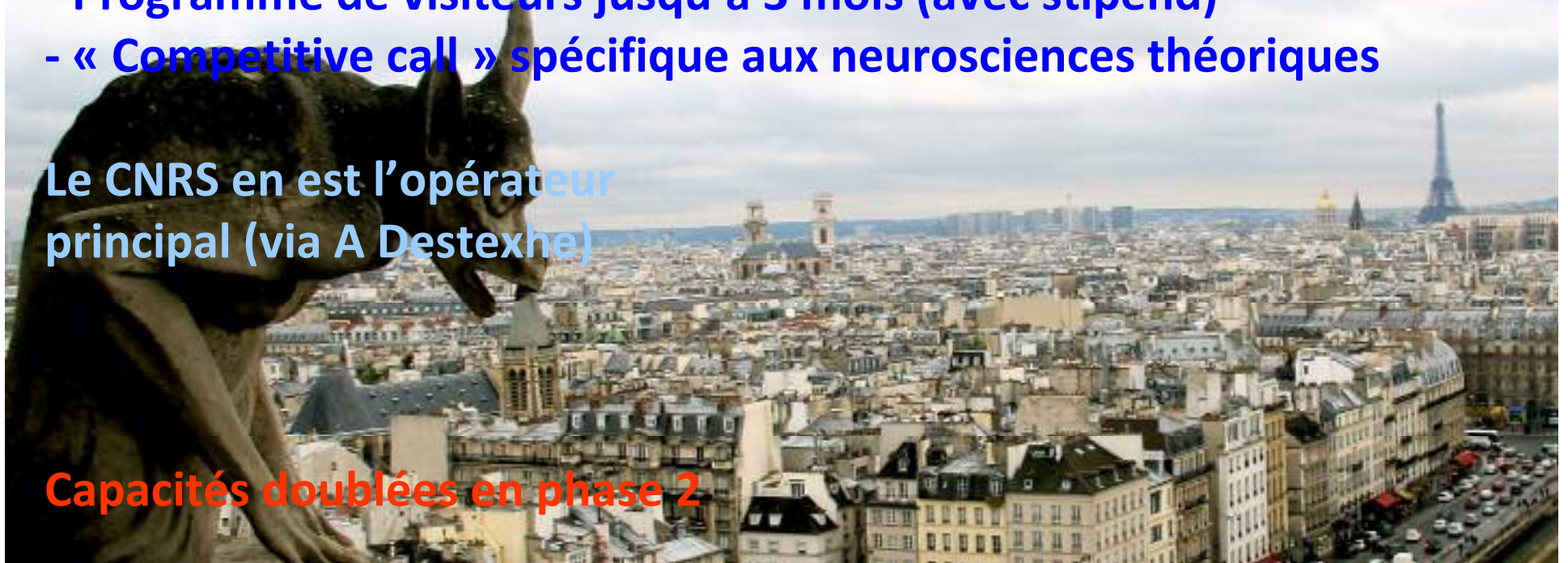
# HBP Theoretical Neuroscience

L'Institut Européen des Neurosciences Théoriques  
(*European Institute for Theoretical Neuroscience*)

- 200 m2 en Région Parisienne (ENS? Descartes? Saclay?)
- 4 postdocs (contrat de 2 ans) présents en permanence
- Implication de la communauté théorique de Paris et Saclay
- Cycles de conférences et workshops avec invités extérieurs
- Programme de visiteurs jusqu'à 3 mois (avec stipend)
- « Competitive call » spécifique aux neurosciences théoriques

Le CNRS en est l'opérateur principal (via A Destexhe)

Capacités doublées en phase 2



# HBP Theoretical Neuroscience

## Participants

Nicolas Brunel

Neil Burgess (Theory and Cognitive)

Gustavo Deco

Alain Destexhe

Olivier Faugeras

Wulfram Gerstner

Victor Jirsa

Wolfgang Maass

Idan Segev (Theory and Simulation)

Walter Senn

Olaf Sporns

Misha Tsodyks (Theory and Cognitive)

Shimon Ullmann

+ Paris Theoretical Neuroscience  
community

+ DeepMind Technologies (London)

