



# Human Brain Project Newsletter

November 2018

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find below a short overview of news from the Human Brain Project (HBP) in November 2018, as well as upcoming HBP events.

Best Wishes,  
HBP editorial office

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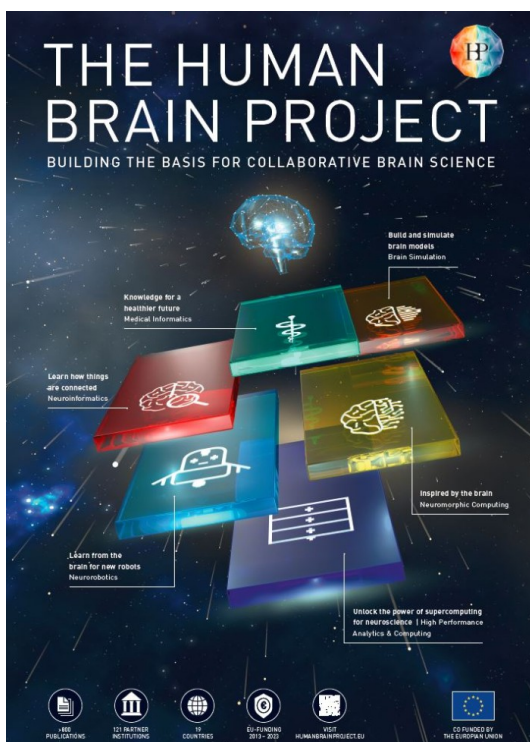
## **SPECIAL: ICT 2018**

**The whole 'fleet' of EU Commission Flagship projects meets for the first time at ICT Vienna**



The Graphene Flagship, the Human Brain Project, and the recently launched Quantum Flagship will showcase their projects at the **ICT 2018: Imagine Digital – Connect Europe exhibition** in Vienna, 4-6 December 2018. The three groundbreaking projects will bring interactive demos and prototypes highlighting recent advances in the fields of graphene and related materials, neuroscience, medicine and computing, and quantum technologies. [Joint press release](#)

### Neuroscience and Computing at the HBP exhibition booth



Visit us at exhibition booth number C10 in Hall X4 - and find the Graphene and Quantum Flagship right next door. Our experts are excited to showcase newest advances from the interface of neuroscience and information technology, like brain-inspired neuromorphic chips, technology-driven medical advances on paralysis and Epilepsy, and the progress of HBP's unique ICT-based Research Infrastructure for neuroscience! The booth is set up as an open space, with stations for visitors to walk through and interact with our exhibits and experts. See for more detailed information [here](#).

### Don't miss: "Flagships as game changers" and HBP networking session



ICT 2018 is Europe's largest ICT event, with an exhibition, conference and special events - don't miss "The FET programme and its Flagships as game changers", 4 December, 16:00 – 17:30, ([more](#)) and the HBP networking session "Supercomputers & Silicon Brains", 5 December, 11:30-12:15 ([more](#))

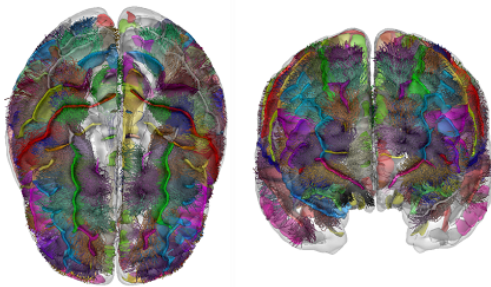
## Research News

## HBP research contributes to breakthrough neurotechnology for treating paralysis



Three patients with chronic paraplegia were able to walk again thanks to precise electrical stimulation of their spinal cords via a wireless implant. Scientists led by Grégoire Courtine (EPFL, CHUV/Unil) this month published these results in *Nature* and *Nature Neuroscience*. In the HBP the researchers developed personalized computational models for each patient that guided the placement of the electrode arrays over the spinal cord. They also study basic mechanisms of electrical spinal cord stimulation in a virtual experiment setup on the Neurorobotics Platform. [More](#)

## New insights into autism through the HBP's human brain atlas



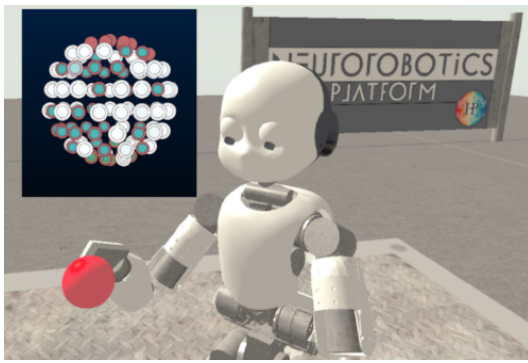
Data obtained within HBP's brain atlas work has contributed to the discovery of a "short distance" brain connectivity deficit that is associated with a lack of social interaction and empathy. The results challenge the dominant theory about autism spectrum disorders. [More](#)

## Neuroscience of drug addiction highlights policy/ethical issues



A recently published paper on the neuroscience of drug addiction raises ethical and policy issues arising out of addiction. The paper concludes social and economic circumstances contribute towards the propensity of individuals to become addicted. [More](#)

## In Focus: Partnering Project RobotBodySchema



“The Neurorobotics Platform will help us to connect our brain model of the peripersonal space to the humanoid body”, explains Zdenek Straka, an early career researcher, in this feature article. The scientist works for RobotBodySchema, a Partnering Project of the HBP that studies the mechanisms of how the brain represents the body to make robots more autonomous and safe.

[More](#)

### Lautenschläger Research Prize Awarded Posthumously to Karlheinz Meier



Heidelberg University has announced that Karlheinz Meier is being honoured posthumously with the 2018 Lautenschläger Research Prize. The 250,000-euro prize will go to his research group at the Kirchhoff Institute for Physics. The award ceremony for this most highly endowed research prize from a private sponsor in Germany will be held on 7 December 2018. [More](#)

### AI in Science: Katrin Amunts at Falling Walls Circle 2018



HBP's Scientific Research Director Katrin Amunts held the impulse statement “AI in Science” at the “Falling Walls Circle” in Berlin, Germany. The international invitation-only roundtable meeting connects leaders from science, business and politics who tackle crucial issues and emerging themes in and beyond science strategy.

[More](#)

### Visit the new Ethics Dialogues blog!



The recently launched Ethics Dialogues blog aims to facilitate sharing and exchange of good practices, research results and reflections on ethics support related matter within and beyond the HBP. Find it at [www.ethicsdialogues.eu](http://www.ethicsdialogues.eu)

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## **Project News**

### **Jan G. Bjaalie elected as new Director for Infrastructure**



Jan G. Bjaalie has been elected new Infrastructure Operations Directors by the Science and Infrastructure Board of HBP on November 12. The vote was unanimous and conducted through anonymous online voting. Jan is a Professor at the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Oslo, and has been the leader of the HBP's Neuroinformatics Platform since 2017. (photo: UiO)

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### **European Brain Research Area (EBRA) Project Launched**



1 November 2018 marked the launch of the EU project The European Brain Research Area (EBRA) to streamline and better co-ordinate brain research across Europe while fostering global initiatives. The consortium consists of a number of large pan-European initiatives, including the Human Brain Project, and is coordinated by the European Brain Council (EBC). [More](#)

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### **International Brain Initiative: La Jolla Meeting**



Members of the International Brain Initiative (IBI) have met in La Jolla, California following the historic agreement to establish the IBI that was made on the 8 December 2017, in Canberra Australia. The meeting was attended for the HBP by Prof. Jan G. Bjaalie. [More](#)

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## **Events and Dates**

**December and beyond**

## **Computational Modelling Of Neurodegeneration And The Aging Brain**

Calle 190, La Habana, Cuba

Dec. 2, 2018 at 08:45 – Dec. 4, 2018 at 18:30

Co-organized by Cuban Neuroscience Center CNEURO Havana and Charité  
Universitätsmedizin Berlin

## **Webinar: Open Research Agenda Setting and the Human Brain Project**

Online event

December 6th

The Human Brain Project (HBP) Stakeholder Forums provide an opportunity to enlighten different scientific perspectives and have a constructive dialogue with regards to ideas, considerations and concerns related to Open Research Agenda Setting.

## **The HBP at ICT 2018: Imagine Digital - Connect Europe**

4-6 December

Vienna

This research and innovation event will focus on the European Union's priorities in the digital transformation of society and industry. It will present an opportunity for the people involved in this transformation to share their experience and vision of Europe in the digital age. The HBP will be represented in the exhibition area of ICT 2018 to showcase its achievements and provide visitors with a glimpse into the ongoing construction of the HBP Joint Platform, the world's first integrated ICT infrastructure for brain research. A networking session will be organized in which participants can learn about ways to collaborate and contribute. HBP contact: [outreach@humanbrainproject.eu](mailto:outreach@humanbrainproject.eu)

## **1st HPAC Platform Training**

Dec. 11, 2018 at 09:30 – Dec. 12, 2018 at 13:00

Barcelona Supercomputing Center

The objective of the 1st HPAC Platform Training Event is to introduce the HPAC Platform as well as to provide assistance to the potential users in understanding the application process for supercomputing resources access.

## **Coma Day: Quels traitements après le coma ?**

12 December

Liege, Belgium

An event on life after Coma organized by Prof. Steven Laureys and the Coma Science Group Giga-Consciousness (U Liege/ CHU Liege), in french.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> HBP Student Conference on Interdisciplinary Brain Research**

Ghent University, Belgium

6-7 February 2019

The 3rd HBP Student Conference provides an open forum for the exchange of new ideas among young researchers working across various aspects of science relevant to the Human Brain Project (HBP). Extended abstract submission deadline: 6 November 2018

## **NEST Conference 2019**

June 24, 2019 – June 25, 2019

Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), Ås, Norway

Dear NEST Community!

The NEST Conference 2019 will be held Monday/Tuesday 24./25. June 2019 at NMBU, Ås, Norway followed by a Hackathon during the rest of the week.



We are very much looking forward to welcoming you back to our beautiful campus. Save the date and stay tuned for more information!

Find further events at: <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/follow-hbp/events/>

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