



Zoran Stančič – DG INFSO, European Commission

Since 2009, Zoran Stančič is Deputy Director General for DG INFSO in charge of the coordination of the ICT Research Directorates. From 2004 to 2009, he was Deputy Director General in DG Research. Prior to his appointment at the European Commission, he was State Secretary for Science at the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport in Slovenia and, before that, Deputy Director of the Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Between 1990 and 2000, Zoran Stančič was research fellow and visiting professor at several universities. He has published seven scientific books and a number of scientific papers on quantitative methods in archaeology and remote sensing.



Henry Markram – Center for Neuroscience and Technology, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL)

Henry Markram started a dual scientific and medical career at the University of Cape Town (South Africa). He moved to Israel in 1988 and obtained his PhD at the Weizmann Institute. He carried out a first postdoctoral study as a Fulbright Scholar at the NIH (USA) and a second postdoctoral study at the Max Planck Institute in Heidelberg (Germany). After a tenure-track position at the Weizmann Institute, Henry Markram joined the EPFL in 2002 as full professor in neurosciences. He is the founder/director of the Brain Mind Institute and Director of the Center for Neuroscience and Technology. He is also the Project Director of the Blue Brain Project, which aims at building a computer model of the human brain. He accomplished pioneering work in the field of neurosciences, trying to reproduce the microcircuits of the neurons through systematic modeling approach. He has received numerous awards and published over 75 scientific papers.



Patrick Aebischer – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL)

Since 2000, Patrick Aebischer is President of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL) and professor of neurosciences. His current research focuses on the development of cell and gene transfer approaches for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases. Patrick Aebischer was trained as a medical doctor and a neuroscientist at the Universities of Geneva and Fribourg in Switzerland. From 1984 to 1992, he worked at Brown University in Providence (Rhode Island, USA). In 1992 he returned to Switzerland as a Professor and Director of the Surgical Research Division and Gene Therapy Center at the University of Lausanne. Patrick Aebischer is a member of numerous professional societies, both in Europe and America. He is also a founder of two biotechnology companies: CytoTherapeutics (today Stem Cell Inc) and Modex Therapeutics (today IsoTis).

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Mission of Switzerland to the European Union

SwissCore
and
the Mission of Switzerland to the European Union

kindly invite you to a

Swiss Science Briefing

on

**Future and Emerging Information Technologies:
Multidisciplinary research as new European vision**

with

Zoran Stančič
Deputy Director General, DG INFSO, European Commission (EC)

Henry Markram
Director of the Center for Neuroscience and Technology,
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL)

and

Patrick Aebischer
President of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL)

Thursday, 18 March 2010, 12:15 – 14:30

Mission of Switzerland to the EU, Place du Luxembourg 1, 1050 Brussels

In coming years, the Future and Emerging Information Technologies (FET) will trigger visionary science and goal-driven large-scale European ICT research initiatives. The long term **FET Flagship Initiatives** are set out to enhance the strength of the national research capacities on a European level. A Communication on FET, published by the European Commission in 2009, states that the two first Flagship Initiatives should be launched by 2013.

The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL) is currently leading a frontier research project combining neurosciences and FET, aiming at creating a synthetic brain: the **Blue Brain Project**. A very large number of neuronal networks on multiple scales are reproduced through a systematic modelling approach. The models are then used for simulations by a supercomputer. The ambitious project should help to understand the human brain and the mystery of consciousness.

Dr. Zoran Stančić, Deputy Director General at DG INFSO, will present the strategic role of the FET scheme of the ICT programme, the main lines of action of the recent communication 'Moving the ICT frontiers' which should enable Europe to take the lead in FET research by strengthening its European and global dimension. He will also highlight the vision of the European Commission on FET Flagship Initiatives and how these actions can contribute to the EU 2020 strategy and in particular to the digital agenda.

Prof. Henry Markram, Director of the Blue Brain Project, will describe a new dimension in computational neurosciences and its interaction with other research areas such as ICT and FET. Henry Markram will also illustrate why the major scientific and technological challenges of the Blue Brain Project would be appropriate for becoming an EU FET flagship.

Prof. Patrick Aebischer, President of the EPFL, will present the commitment of its institution to this revolutionary project, the partners involved, as well as the institutional strategic context in which it is embedded.

The **panel discussion** following the presentations will allow the public to enter into the debate concerning the future grand scientific challenges with high societal impact.

25 portraits of outstanding researchers active in Switzerland are being showcased in a touring exhibition called "SCIENCEsuisse". After the USA, Singapore and India, the exhibition is now being displayed at the Mission of Switzerland to the EU. You are welcome to visit the exhibition before and after the event.

Programme

Thursday, 18 March 2010, 12:15– 14:30

- 12:15 Sandwich lunch
- 12:45 **Welcome and introduction**
Jacques de Watteville
Ambassador, Mission of Switzerland to the EU
- 12:55 **FET Flagships as new EU research initiatives**
Zoran Stančić
Deputy Director General, DG INFSO,
European Commission
- 13:15 **Future challenges in computational neurosciences**
Henry Markram
Director of the Center for Neuroscience and Technology,
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL)
- 13:35 **Why does EPFL support frontier research?**
Patrick Aebischer
President of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in
Lausanne (EPFL)
- 13:55 **Panel discussion**
moderated by Maryline Maillard
Head of Office, SwissCore
- 14:30 Coffee

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