



Press release

## **“The Impact of Neuroscience on Society”**

**Meeting in celebration of *Neuron*'s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
jointly organised by *Cell Press*, *La Fondation Ipsen*  
and *Massachusetts General Hospital*.**

**Paris (France), 31 October 2008** – Since 1988, *Neuron* has been at the forefront of publishing the most exciting research in all areas of the neurosciences. This meeting celebrated the contribution of all the authors, reviewers and readers around the world who have contributed to the success of *Neuron*. This one-day meeting was organized at the *Collège de France* by Kenneth R. Chien (Massachusetts General Hospital, USA), Emilie Marcus (*Cell Press*, USA), Katja Brose (*Cell Press*, USA), Elena Porro (*Cell Press*, USA) and Yves Christen (Fondation IPSEN, France).

These past two decades have been characterized by explosive growth and excitement within the neurosciences, with powerful new tools bringing us breathtaking new windows into the mysteries of the brain. *Neuron* has been proud to be a part of communicating so many of these discoveries. The goal of this special one-day symposium was to spotlight the tremendous contributions and implications that modern neuroscience has for our broader society. Man has been pondering for centuries over the basis of his own ethical and aesthetic values. Until recent times, such issues were primarily fed by the thinking of philosophers, moralists, theologians and politics. But the rise of neuroscience and other disciplines makes a more objective and experimental approach possible. This is the reason why some of the best researchers and thinkers were invited to present data and analysis related to the neuroscience on society. The keynote speaker was Tom Insel, Director of the US National Institute of Mental Health; six prominent international neuroscientists: Colin Camerer (California Institute of Technology, USA), Jean-Pierre Changeux (Institut Pasteur, France), Patricia Churchland (University of California USA), Stanislas Dehaene (Collège de France, CEA-Orsay, France), Adele Diamond (University of British Columbia, Canada) and Yadin Dudai, (Weizmann Institute, Israel) discussed how new insights into the development and function of the brain and nervous system are impacting the arts, education, economics, philosophy, health and our understanding of ourselves as individuals and as members of society.

### ***About La Fondation IPSEN***

Established in 1983 under the aegis of the *Fondation de France*, the mission of *La Fondation IPSEN* is to contribute to the development and dissemination of scientific knowledge. The long-standing action of *La Fondation IPSEN* is aimed at furthering the interaction between researchers and clinical practitioners, which is indispensable due to the extreme specialisation of these professions. The ambition of *La Fondation IPSEN* is not to offer definitive knowledge, but to initiate a reflection about the major scientific issues of the forthcoming years. It has developed an important international network of scientific experts who meet regularly at meetings known as *Colloques Médecine et Recherche*, dedicated to six main themes: Alzheimer's disease, neurosciences, longevity, endocrinology, the vascular system and cancer science. In 2007, *La Fondation IPSEN* started three new series of meetings. The first is in partnership with the Salk Institute and *Nature* and is an annual meeting which focuses on aspects of Biological Complexity; the second is the “Emergence and Convergence” series, and the third is with *Cell* and the Massachusetts General Hospital entitled “Exciting Biologies”. Since its beginning, *La Fondation IPSEN* has organised more than 100 international conferences, published 67 volumes with renowned publishers and close to 200 issues of a widely distributed newsletter *Alzheimer Actualités*. It has also awarded more than 100 prizes and grants.

**About Cell Press**

Cell Press, an imprint of Elsevier, is committed to improving scientific communication through the publication of exciting research and reviews. Each of its titles is viewed as a must-read by the scientific community it serves. Cell Press primary research journals include the flagship journal *Cell*, as well as *Neuron*, *Immunity*, *Molecular Cell*, *Developmental Cell*, *Cancer Cell*, *Current Biology*, *Structure*, *Chemistry & Biology*, *Cell Metabolism*, *Cell Host & Microbe*, *Cell Stem Cell* and, new to Cell Press in 2008, *The American Journal of Human Genetics*. Also new to Cell Press this year are the fourteen *Trends* reviews journals, including *Trends in Cell Biology* and *Trends in Neuroscience*. As it introduces publications and expands online content to serve its growing audience, Cell Press's mission remains to publish and develop journals that deliver the highest possible intellectual rigor, promote community trust, and are widely disseminated. For more information, please go to <http://www.cellpress.com/>

**About Massachusetts General Hospital**

Massachusetts General Hospital, located in Boston, is the third oldest hospital in the United States and the largest in New England. It consistently ranks as one of the country's best hospitals by U.S. News and World Report. Massachusetts General Hospital is guided by the needs of their patients and their families. They aim to deliver the very best health care in a safe, compassionate environment; to advance that care through innovative research and education; and, to improve the health and well-being of the diverse communities they serve. For more information, please go to <http://www.massgeneral.org/>

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