

The Brain Forum Innovation Award: where innovative start-ups connect with investors

With their innovative ideas, start-up companies play an important role in finding creative solutions for scientific challenges. The Brain Forum Innovation Award, supported by A3 Angels, has been created to reward the best new project in the field of brain research. On 26 May a selected number of start-ups will give a public presentation in front of decision-makers from business, politics, healthcare, science, technology and the media.

The Brain Forum brings people together to address the big issues in brain science. Start-ups are small and nimble enough to keep pace with the high speed at which technology continuously evolves. Although start-ups are never short of innovative ideas and solutions, they often lack the resources to propel their ambitions.

For this reason, The Brain Forum Innovation Award will once again offer opportunities for early-stage start-ups to connect with leading experts in brain research, as well as with investors interested in the solutions of the future.

More than 120 companies working in the field of neuroscience have been screened. From these, 18 (listed below) will be given the opportunity to showcase their ideas at The Brain Forum exhibition held throughout the conference and take part in pitch clinics before a final six are selected. Start-ups making the final round will have five minutes to pitch their projects to the audience and a jury composed of thought leaders in innovation.

The competition will be conducted as follows:

1 to 11 May: Pre-selection of 18 start-ups, by the pre-selection panel

25 May: Pitch clinics and selection of six finalists

26 May: Finalists pitches to jury and audience + Q&A and panel discussions

Every pitch will be live-streamed and uploaded on The Brain Forum website.

For more information, please contact:

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About The Brain Forum – thebrainforum.org

The Brain Forum, first launched in 2013, brings together novel thinkers and pioneers in brain research, technology, healthcare and the economy. Researchers, engineers, healthcare professionals, entrepreneurs, industrialists, investors, funding agencies and policy makers will meet at The Brain Forum 2016, to advance our understanding of how the brain works and to accelerate the application and value of this knowledge in society and the economy.



Pre selection panel

- Mme. Michèle Ollier, Co-founder, Medicxi Ventures
- Dr. Andreas Schulze, Senior Partner, Marsa Corporate Finance
- Dr. Steffen Wagner, CEO & Co-founder, investiere
- Mr. Daniel Bertholet, Senior Investment Director, Endeavour Vision
- Ms. Hemera Beretta, Senior Advisor, Tectus Group & Commercial Director Neuropro AG
- Dr. Steve Swinson, Chairman of the Board, Vexim
- Dr. Nico Luchsinger, Head of Strategy & Programming, Asia Society Switzerland
- Prof. Guy Goodwin, President, European College of Neuropsychopharmacology
- Prof. Patrice Boyer, Founding Member & Past President, European Psychiatric Association
- Mr. Nate Grobe, Marketing Director, Edwards Lifesciences
- Mr. Dan Gilbertson, Business Development Manager, Medtronic
- Prof. Philippe Berta, Director, University of Nîmes
- Mr. Blaise Ganguin, Head of Corporate & IFR Ratings & Managing Director, S&P Global Ratings
- Mr. Christian Hauser, Area Brand Manager, Alcon Laboratories
- Dr. Bruno Herbelin, Deputy Director, EPFL Center for Neuroprosthetics
- Mr. Bertrand Landel, Strategy & Marketing Consultant, Independent Consultant
- Mr. Bragi Lovetruue, CTO, Demiurge Technologies
- Mr. Bertrand Müller, Senior Portfolio Manager, Pictet Group
- Mr. Boris Rubellin, Business Development Manager, Nevro
- Mr. Jean-Marc Wismer, CEO, KB Medical
- Mr. Christophe Broggi, CFO, Alveonix
- Ms. Birgit Fleurent, VP Worldwide Marketing, Patient Access and Customer Loyalty, Accuray

Jury

- Prof. Monica Di Luca, President, Federation of European Neuroscience Societies & Vice-President, European Brain Council
- Mr. Tej Tadi, CEO, MindMaze
- Dr. Remy Luthringer, Advisor, Medicxi Ventures
- Dr. Markus Goebel, Managing Director, Novartis Venture Fund
- Mr. Claude Florin, Principal, Venture Concept & President A3 Angels



Selected start-ups

ATLAS Neuroengineering

ATLAS Neuroengineering is a startup of [imec](#), Leuven and [IMTEK](#), University of Freiburg. We deliver tools and solutions for in vivo electrophysiology recordings and stimulation.

Our innovative electronic depth control ([EDC](#)) probes allow high-density electrode recordings without mechanical electrode adjustment during the experiment. We also produce passive silicon multi-electrode arrays for experiments with freely behaving rodents and non-human primates.

In addition to cortical and thalamic brain applications, our probe technology is also suitable for intraspinal microstimulation (ISMS). ATLAS Neuroengineering aims to create stepping-stones towards the clinical market and is actively involved in innovation projects to explore technological breakthroughs.

ATLAS Neuroengineering provides expert knowledge in silicon-based probe design, micro-technology fabrication, micro-assembly, interconnect and packaging techniques for new and existing data acquisition systems.

Avalon AI

Our Machine Learning algorithms analyse brain MRIs to predict which patients with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) will progress to Dementia within one year. With our tech, pharmaceutical companies can run much cheaper and shorter clinical trials because they can enrol only the MCI patients that are likely to transition soon.

Axinexis

Axinexis, a spin-off from the Univ. catholique de Louvain (Belgium), carries a clear mission: to improve functional recovery of patients through innovative and accessible robotics technologies dedicated to the rehabilitation of impaired upper limbs of stroke adults or cerebral palsy children.

AzEz

About a 100 million people worldwide suffer from some form of dementia.

Many of them do not receive a formal diagnosis because detecting brain disease is often time consuming, expensive and ambiguous. AzEz is a revolutionary portable self-use device that reliably detects dementia and Alzheimer's disease with a drop of blood, in 10 minutes, for 5 \$.

BrainControl

Imagine if you were prisoner of your body; imagine you wake up and you feel unable to turn on the light; imagine you cannot speak, to communicate your sentiments or needs to your dears; many people cannot do these things. BrainControl is a breakthrough technology device that gives disabled people the power to control objects with their minds, allowing them to control a communicator, domotics devices, wheelchair.

Brain+

Brain+ takes the latest insights from neuroscience and psychology and packages them into easy to use consumer products for maintaining a fit and healthy brain. The Brain+ product is an easy to use software application, which can be downloaded and run on all software platforms, stationary or mobile. 1.000.000+ B2C users first year on v1.0 Brain+ Brain training App. Recently closed 3 deals in the B2B space, selling 15.000 VIP subscriptions.



Gait Up

Our healthcare products are gait analysis with foot worn sensors, and clinical grade physical activity monitoring with a trunk worn sensor. Our customers use our products to identify frail elderly patients at fall risk, monitor recovery from orthopedic surgery or stroke, diagnose Parkinson's disease, manage cerebral palsy, evaluate response to drug therapies and assess quality of life, based on measured gait and/or physical activity parameters.

Neuralcubes

Neuralcubes Ltd is a company focused on the creation of brain computer interfaces and neurofeedback applications. Our main goal is to fill the gap that exists between the computational neuroscience field and consumers. We are developing Brightfulness, an application that aims to help patients being treated with mindfulness based cognitive therapies by using real-time and long-term neurofeedback.

Neuranalyze

Neuranalyze.com is a cloud services platform that can automatically analyze neuronal/brain images, more than 10 times faster and 10 times cheaper than traditional (manual) analysis. On a global scale, that could save universities and research institutes millions of Dollars and speed up the discovery of new therapeutics.

NeuroLogix Tech

C3Logix performs a comprehensive neurological assessment of the domains most commonly affected by a concussion. We collect parametric data through our testing and capture contextual data collection through our structured "incident reports" and return to play, work, and learning. This is the only product that utilise a SaaS business model, which has been assisted the medical community, encouraged proper medical documentation, and treatment.

Neuron Guard

Neuron Guard is a life-saving medical device with the potential to revolutionize the treatment of brain injuries with significant reduction of healthcare costs. The solution is made of a disposable refrigerating collar and a control unit, capable of achieving and maintaining a level of therapeutic hypothermia of the head district. UVP: early on-site treatment. Vision: save lives by positioning our kit in all the public places exactly as the AED.

PathMaker Neurosystems

PathMaker Neurosystems is a clinical-stage neurotechnology company developing non-invasive neurotherapy systems for treatment of paralysis, weakness and spasticity. Our coordinated multi-site neurostimulation modulates physiology in a manner not possible with single-site stimulation, and is enabled by directionally-controllable spinal level modulation using trans-spinal direct current stimulation (tsDCS). Clinical trials are now underway.

Polyneuron Pharmaceuticals

Polyneuron develops a promising new class of immunomodulatory drugs by virtue of its proprietary Antibody-Catch® technology platform. Platform-derived compounds selectively eliminate disease-causing autoantibodies in autoimmune disorders. The company's lead candidate PN-1007 (anti-MAG neuropathy) will be brought into clinical trials as fast as possible. Both, the platform and PN-1007 are valuable assets for a future trade sale.

PRAGMA Therapeutics

Following Swiss CTI Entrepreneurship course in 2014, and Entrepreneurship award from French National Network Reseau Entreprenre in 2015, Sylvain Celanire (CEO) and Guillaume Duvey (CSO) founded PRAGMA Therapeutics. Gathering each



15+ years of R&D experience in the pharmaceutical industry as business unit directors, in charge of projects portfolio and team management. They led worldwide collaborations with major US & EU pharma companies, as well as preclinical projects with external CROs and academic institutes. They notably gained strong expertise in small molecules development for CNS disorders, in particular metabotropic glutamate receptor (mGluR) therapeutics, leading to 80 patent applications, high impact factor articles and book chapters.

PRAGMA Therapeutics is a biotech company developing small molecules acting on mGlu7 receptor and normalizing glutamate dysfunctions, representing an innovative approach for the treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Hearing Loss (such as noise-, age-related hearing loss and tinnitus).

With the support of national and international grants from the French National Research Agency and Action on Hearing Loss UK charity, along others French innovation subsidies, PRAGMA discovered first-in-class potent, selective and specific mGlu7 allosteric modulators, and already demonstrated oral proof-of-concept in preclinical disease models of PTSD.

PRAGMA fully externalises its R&D operations to CROs and leading academic platforms in USA, Europe and Asia, advancing its asset to first-in-man by 2018. Post-Phase 2 PoC, PRAGMA envisages an exit through structured deal with major pharmaceutical company.

ReHaptix

ReHaptix is developing an application that provides an objective assessment of arm disabilities for patients suffering from a neurological disorder; Parkinson, stroke and MS. Patients can perform the tests autonomously at home on a tablet. Therapists can monitor the test results remotely and adapt the therapy. ReHaptix increases the quality and efficiency of therapies. We are a spin-off from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, ETH Zurich.

Rythm

Rythm, neurotechnology startup, merges neuroscience & the greatest in technology to enhance human performance by exploring, monitoring, & decoding the brain. Dreem, our first product, is a wearable headband that monitors brain activity using EEG, & actively stimulates it to enhance the quality of deep sleep. Rythm launched Dreem First, limited beta program on March 3, 2016. It will set the stage for a broader consumer launch later this year.

Trust Neuroimaging

Our neuro-imaging software cloud-service dramatically increases the resolution of existing and future neuro-imaging systems, at a fraction of the cost of equivalent hardware, and far beyond what is possible with hardware alone. Increased neuro-imaging resolution is a key enabler of new research discoveries and up-coming technologies like brain-computer interfaces, augmented cognition and artificial intelligence.

