

It is a great honor to welcome you all to the International Workshop on Neuroinformatics organized by RIKEN BSI and sponsored by MEXT. With the recently conducted Global Science Forum under the OECD, they agreed that the study of the human brain would be one of the most significant and challenging scientific endeavors of the 21st century that would lead to the improvement of the quality of life of many people. Neuroinformatics holds the key infrastructure in the management and sharing of the vast amounts of neuroscientific data generated by this endeavor. Hence, a coordinated effort by the establishment of neuroinformatics node in each country has been recognized by OECD-GSF to have a vital role for its success.

With the establishment of INCF (International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility) to coordinate the management of neuroinformatics databases to ensure open access of standardized data, the government of Japan deemed it necessary to conduct a survey of the neuroinformatics trend around the world in preparation for the establishment of the Japanese Node. In this regard, we invited international speakers to share with us their expertise and personal experience in the development, implementation, and management of neuroinformatics in their respective areas.

The morning and early afternoon sessions consist of presentations of neuroinformatics projects in USA, EU, and Australia while the late afternoon sessions include presentations of the current activities and future perspectives of neuroinformatics in Japan. International speakers from the USA are composed of Stephan H. Koslow (*National Institute of Health*) and Thomas Morse (*Yale University School of Medicine*). The speakers from Europe are Andreas Hertz (*Institute for Theoretical Biology Humboldt-University Berlin*), Rolf Kotter (*Vogt Brain Research Institute, Heinrich Heine University, Dusseldorf*) and Simon Thorpe (*National Center for Scientific Research, Toulouse*) while the speaker from Australia is Gary Egan (*Howard Florey Institute, University of Melbourne*). The Japanese speakers are composed of Teichi Furuichi (*RIKEN Brain Science Institute*), Izumi Ohzawa (*Osaka University*), Ryoji Suzuki (*Kanazawa Institute of Technology*), and Shiro Usui (*RIKEN Brain Science Institute*).

In the name of the organizer, we wish you to have a great time. We sincerely hope you will find the participation in this workshop exciting and fruitful.

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