

Dear Colleagues,

Initiated under the impulse of Jean Antoine Girault, the Ecole des Neurosciences de Paris (ENP) has been highly successful to create a spirit of community among a majority of the top-ranking Neuroscience laboratories of the Paris area. Three years only after its set up, it has attracted and hosted over 50 international researchers and highly talented students through original programs such as the ENP PhD program that bridges across reputed Paris Universities (Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris Sud and Paris Descartes), and it has created links between prestigious Research Institutes and their top-most Neuroscience laboratories through common projects, shared resources, and meetings.

As I take over the responsibility of ENP, I thank Bernard Esambert, Chairman of the Foundation, Jean Antoine ENP former director, and all my colleagues for their trust. I understand the challenge of serving such an outstanding community and building upon what has already established.

As Jean Antoine Girault steps out, I thank him deeply, in the name of our colleagues, for building this unique enterprise and for his relentless effort to make it work.

At a time when competition for funds and visibility is increasing both International and National-wise, it is essential to remember that joined forces do better and strike more efficiently than dispersed efforts. The ENP is a formidable force in that respect to make of the Paris Universities an interesting place for excellent students to do their PhD and to persuade International team leaders to come and establish their group in an ENP-affiliated Research center.

The attractiveness of the ENP programs depends much on all of you, the ENP researchers at all stages of your career. The quality of your research is of course essential, but so are your efforts in making the existing ENP programs work, in improving them, and in suggesting new programs or actions. New initiatives and new ideas are always welcome at ENP when they strive to enhance the effectiveness of the Neuroscience Community. ENP is government funded^{1}, but has the status of a private sector foundation, making it a smaller and more flexible to make your suggestions and ideas become real.*

So take this chance, to make ENP as successful and as lively as ever,

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¹ * In March 2007, the French Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Research issued a Decree validating a "foundation for scientific cooperation", the Paris School of Neuroscience (ENP), whose goal is to "Understand the brain to treat its disorders". This private-sector foundation for scientific cooperation is supported by five institutions: the CEA, CNRS, Inserm, Pierre et Marie Curie University and Paris-Sud-11 University, which have joined forces to achieve a common goal. The ENP has also developed partnerships with Paris-Descartes University, the Institut de la Vision and the Institut du Cerveau et de la Moelle épinière (ICM).