

IN Scientific Advisory Board 2021-2023



Prof. Carmen Sandi (Chair)
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Carmen Sandi is Full Professor and Head of the Laboratory of Behavioural Genetics at the Brain Mind Institute (EPFL, Switzerland). She was Director of the Brain Mind Institute from 2012 to 2019. She is also founder and co-President of the Swiss Stress Network, and co-Director of the Swiss Center for Competence in Research Synapsy. From 2010-2011, she was President of the European Brain and Behaviour Society and she became president of the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) for the 2018–2020 term. Her work focuses on the neurobiological mechanisms whereby stress alters the brain in the context of cognition and social behaviours, with a current focus on the contribution of brain mitochondria and metabolism. Her lab adopts an integrative research program in rodents and humans that span from a whole range of neurobiological approaches to the use of neuroimaging and virtual reality. She was Visiting Professor at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (1999), the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (2015) and the Rockefeller University NY (2016), and recipient of the Behavioral Brain Research Prize (2014) and Ron de Kloet Award (2018).



Prof. María Blasco
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María Blasco joined the CNIO as Director of the Molecular Oncology Programme and Leader of the Telomeres and Telomerase Group. In 2005 she was also assigned as Vice-Director of Basic Research and in 2011 she was appointed as CNIO Director. She has received the Josef Steiner Cancer Research, Rey Jaime I, Körber European Science, Alberto Sols and Fundación Lilly Preclinical Research, Awards; the Spanish National “Santiago Ramón y Cajal” Research Award in Biology and the EMBO Gold Medal, and has served on its Council since 2008.



Prof. Alain Chédotal
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Alain Chédotal is Directeur de Recherche INSERM (DRCE), Coordinator of the Department of Development, and Group Leader at the Vision Institute. He was previously at the at the Salpêtrière Hospital (Sorbonne University). His work focuses on the role of axon guidance molecules in the regulation of cell-cell interactions during normal development and in pathologies, and the function and evolution of commissural connections in the vertebrate central nervous system. He has been a member of EMBO since 2019, of the Academia Europaea since 2016 and of the French Academy of Sciences since 2017, Inserm Research Prize and Remedios Caro Almela Award for Developmental Neurobiology in 2017.



Prof. Magdalena Götz
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Magdalena Götz is the Director of the Institute for Stem Cell Research at the Helmholtz Center and Professor at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, Germany. Her developmental work in neurogenesis has identified radial glial cells as the source of neurons in the developing brain. She was elected member of Academia Europaea (2006), EMBO (2006), and the Leopoldina Academy (2008), and external member of the Max-Planck-Society (2013).



Prof. Cornelius Gross
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Cornelius Gross is Group Leader and Interim Head at the Mouse Biology Unit, EMBL Rome. He was previously at the Developmental Biology Unit EMBL Heidelberg, Columbia University, NY, Yale University and California University Berkeley. His work focuses on understanding, at a molecular and circuit level, the neural control of instinctive fear-related behaviour. The goal of his research is to form novel hypotheses about how human instinctive behaviour is controlled, which could form the basis for clinical research to develop improved diagnostic and therapeutic tools for mental illness.



Prof. Michael Häusser
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Michael Häusser has made fundamental contributions to our understanding of how the complex dendritic structures of nerve cells contribute to the functional computations that occur in the mammalian brain. He has achieved this by the introduction and exploitation of advanced techniques, coupled with careful quantitative analysis and modelling of the experimental results. He was also elected Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2012, and Fellow of the Royal Society in 2015.