



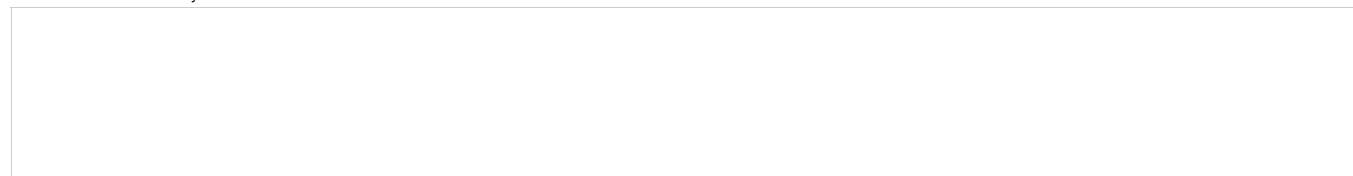
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Finalists Announced for Israel Brain Technologies' Million Dollar Global B.R.A.I.N. Prize

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Text



Thought-controlled Robotic Limbs, Bionic Eyes, Non-invasive Brain Surgery, Breakthrough Treatments for Parkinson's, Schizophrenia and Epileps

TEL AVIV, Israel, June 3, 2013 /PRNewswire/ --

Israel Brain Technologies (IBT) has announced the ten finalists for its \$1 million Global B.R.A.I.N. (Breakthrough Research And Innovation in Neurotechnology) Prize competition - an international R&D award for breakthroughs in the field of brain technology. Finalists include leading researchers from the world's elite institutions as well as companies addressing the world's most critical brain-related health issues. The finalists were chosen from amongst entries from eleven different countries.

The finalist projects represent breakthrough achievements with potential for significant impact on humanity. The ten finalists are:

Dr. Hagai Bergman - Improved adaptive deep brain stimulation technique to treat Parkinson's disease and other basal ganglia disorders including depression, obsessive-compulsive disorders and schizophrenia.

Dr. Edward Boyden - Developing optogenetics, which enables cells to be activated by light, towards identifying clinically relevant targets in the brain and for treating brain disorders.

BrainGate Team led by Dr. John Donoghue -Development and first demonstrations of a neural interface system being used by people with paralysis to provide direct brain control of communication devices, computers, and robotic limbs to restore functions performed by the arm and hand.

ElMindA & Soterix (Collaboration) - Integrating brain functional mapping and monitoring with targeted brain stimulation technology in order to offer focused, personalized and effective treatment for pain.

Dr. Itzhak Fried - Brain pacemaker to treat memory impairment in early Alzheimer's disease and other memory disorders including traumatic brain injury, epilepsy and stroke.

Inscopix - Mouse brain imaging devices enabling researchers to observe large numbers of neurons and in many mice in parallel, thereby opening up new approaches to studying brain disease and identifying therapeutics.

Insightec - Using ultrasound for brain surgery with no incision and no radiation.

Nano-Retina - Developing an artificial retina that uses natural mechanisms of the eye to convey images to the brain, thereby restoring vision to persons blinded by retinal diseases.

Dr. Andrew Schwartz - Restored arm and hand function to paralyzed individuals by using their brain signals to control artificial limbs.

Team Led by Dr. Phillip Starr, UCSF - Improving neurostimulation therapies for brain diseases.

The finalists will present their breakthrough developments at BrainTech Israel 2013, Israel's 1(st) International Brain Technology Conference,

on October 14(th) -15(th) in Tel Aviv. The winner will be chosen at the conference by an international judging committee of distinguished neuroscience and life science industry leaders, including Nobel Laureates.

"The Global B.R.A.I.N. Prize is our way of recognizing breakthrough achievements and helping brain-tech innovators bring their solutions to society faster," said Miri Polachek, Executive Director of IBT. "The \$1 million prize will go a long way towards developing tomorrow's promising brain technologies, today."

About Israel Brain Technologies:

Inspired by the vision of Israeli President Shimon Peres, Israel Brain Technologies (IBT) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to advance Israel's neurotechnology industry, to establish Israel as a global hub of brain technology innovation and to increase collaboration between the Israeli neurotechnology ecosystem and its counterparts around the world.

Building on Israel's position as a global technology powerhouse, IBT aims to make Israel both the "Startup Nation" and the "Brain Nation."

IBT is led by a team of technology entrepreneurs and life science professionals and is advised by a panel of renowned academic, industry and public sector representatives including two Nobel Prize Laureates.

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