

2022 AT A GLANCE

Graphic summary of the annual report

Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience











KAVLI FOUNDATION



Our Vision

To understand the emergence of higher brain functions



Live neurons in the zebrafish brain. Image courtesy by Yaksi Group



Dear reader

2022 marks the final year of the Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience's *Centre for Neural Computation* (CNC). During its ten years of funding by the Research Council of Norway's Centre of Excellence scheme, the centre has pioneered research on neural networks in the brain. CNC research on how the mammal brain computes space was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2014. Basic science discoveries at CNC are milestones towards an understanding of neurodegenerative afflictions such as Alzheimer's disease. The centre has expanded in personnel and across disciplines by recruitment of new research groups, preparing the community of researchers in Trondheim to take on neuroscience research challenges of the future.

Please enjoy our graphic summary of 2022 with selected highlights from the last ten years.

For first access to the most recent brain discoveries from the Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience, direct your mobile camera at the QR-code on the back cover of this folder and follow the instructions.

May-Britt Moser, Edvard Moser, Bjarne Foss Directors at the Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience

Organisational chart 2022

TRINITY OF DIRECTORS



EDVARD MOSER Scientific Director



MAY-BRITT MOSER Scientific Director



BJARNE FOSS Administrative Director



RESEARCH GROUP LEADERS



MAY-BRITT MOSER Moser Lab

YASSER ROUDI

Roudi Lab



EDVARD MOSER Moser Lab



JONATHAN WHITLOCK Whitlock Lab



MENNO WITTER Witter Lab



CLIFFORD KENTROS Kentros Lab



EMRE YAKSI Yaksi Lab



MAXIMILIANO NIGRO Nigro Lab







TOBIAS NAVARRO SCHRÔDER Navarro Schröder Lab

MARYAM ZIAEI Ziaei Lab

Institute, centres and infrastructure

KAVLI INSTITUTE FOR SYSTEMS NEUROSCIENCE (KISN)

The Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience is a leading research environment in Trondheim. The lab that preceded the institute was founded by Nobel Laureates May-Britt Moser and Edvard Moser in 1996 to investigate the emergence of higher brain functions.

Today, the Kavli Institute is an interdisciplinary village of experts with the common desire to understand how complex information is encoded in high-level neural networks and how complex behaviours arise from these codes and systems.

The institute staff is organized in ten research groups and several support groups such as Animal Tech, Technical

Group, Kavli Communication, and an Administrative team.

Centres

The neuroscience research institute, led by Edvard Moser, May-Britt Moser and Bjarne Foss, now comprises four research centres:

- Centre for Neural Computation (CNC)
- Egil and Pauline Braathen and Fred Kavli Centre for Cortical Microcircuits (BKC)
- K.G. Jebsen Centre for Alzheimer's Disease (ICA)
- Mohn Research Center for the Brain (MCB)

Education

The department is responsible for an international master's degree programme in neuroscience. It has joint responsibility for the PhD programme in medicine and health sciences

at NTNU. The Norwegian Research School in Neuroscience (NRSN) is organised and run by the institute with support and participation of the major Norwegian universities.

Infrastructure

The institute is the national host of NORBRAIN, a large-scale infrastructure for neuroscience technology, with facilities located at the University of Oslo (UiO), the University of Bergen (UiB), and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim. The institute is also host to the only Viral Vector Core in Norway, supplying labs across the world with state-of-the-art viral research tools.



Centre for Neural Computation



K.G. Jebsen Centre for Alzheimer's Disease

Braathen and Kavli Centre for **Cortical Microcircuits**



Mohn Research Center for the Brain





NORBRAIN

VIRAL VECTOR CORE

Understanding the brain is one of the greatest challenges to science, with brain disorders affecting one in three Europeans during their lifetime.

History

The Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience consists of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) awarded by the Research Council of Norway since 2002, a Kavli Foundation Institute since 2007, a Braathen-Kavli Centre since 2015, a department at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) since 2017, a Foundation Stiftelsen Kristian Gerhard Jebsen Centre since 2020, and a Trond Mohn Foundation Research Centre since 2021.



Norwegian Research School in Neuroscience



TFSR The Research Fund of the Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience

10 years of Excellence!



The Mini2P

2022



Torus – grid cells 2.0! •

> Ziaei Group .

Mohn Research Center for the Brain •

DeepMREye

• Neuropixels 2.0



CoE – Centre of Excellence: Centre for Neural Computation

The Kavli Institute is awarded a Centre of Excellence at the Research Council of Norway, aiming to extract the algorithms that give rise to an accessible mammalian cognitive function by taking advantage of the recent technological innovations for neural data recording and neural-circuit analysis.





Photo: Thor Nielsen / Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience.

Research Groups at the Kavli Institute 2012





Moser Group Principal investigators Edvard Moser and May-Britt Moser. Topic: Space and memory

Witter Group Principal investigator Menno Witter. Topic: Functional neuroanatomy

2013

Kentros Group

Principal investigator Clifford Kentros starts up new research group – the Kavli Institute's transgenic investigation of neural circuits group



Yaksi Group

Principal investigator Emre Yaksi starts up new research group – the Kavli Institute's sensory computations group



Roudi Group Principal investigator Yasser Roudi Topic: Statistical physics of interference and network organization



Whitlock Group Principal investigator Jonathan Whitlock Topic: Cognitive motor function





The Nobel Prize

May-Britt Moser and Edvard Moser receives the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine together with John O'Keefe for their discovery of the brain's navigation system.

May-Britt and Edvard Moser discovered – in the medial entorhinal cortex, a region of the brain next to hippocampus – grid cells that provide the brain with an internal coordinate system essential for navigation.



Photo: Geir Mogen / Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience









Photo: Hege Tunstad / Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience

Photo: Niklas Elmehed

Photo: Hege Tunstad / Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience

Photo: Gunnar Hansen / Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience





Egil and Pauline Braathen and Fred Kavli Centre for Cortical Microcircuit

Pauline Braathen was married to Egil Braathen for 46 years. He died in 2009 after a prolonged period of advanced Alzheimer's disease. Pauline donated US \$5 million to establish Egil and Pauline Braathen and Fred Kavli Centre for Cortical Microcircuits in cooperation with The Kavli Foundation in USA.



III. Doeller Group / Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience

2016

Doeller Group

Principal investigator Christian Doeller starts up new research group – the Kavli Institute's translational neuroscience group.

2017

The Starmus festival

The Starmus IV festival: Life and the universe is arranged in Trondheim with NTNU as host.



Photo: Thor Nielsen / NTNU

Photo: Private





Photo: Thor Nielsen / NTNU



Our sense of time

Researchers at the Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience discovers a network of brain cells that express our sense of time within experiences and memories.



III. Kolbjørn Skarpnes, Rita Elmkvist Nilsen / NTNU, Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience

The Grand Cross

May-Britt Moser and Edvard Moser awarded the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav, in recognition of their research, their social involvement, and their commitment to animal welfare in research.





Photo: Thor Nielsen / Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience

2019

Object vector cells

Discovery of a specialized brain cell that help us to navigate in space: object-vector cells. These cells measure the distance and direction to all objects around us.





7 Tesla MR scanner

Norway's first 7 Tesla MR-scanner arrived in Trondheim September 2019. This new brain scanner is state of the art research tool and provides high resolution mapping of human brain structure and function, it will bridge basic neuroscience research at the Kavli Institute with the Alzheimer clinic at St. Olav's Hospital.

The Siemens MAGNETOM Terra System is part of the infrastructure program NORBRAIN 2 and is managed by the Norwegian 7T MR Center.





Photo: Siemens Healthineers

2020

K.G. Jebsen Centre for Alzheimer's Disease

K.G. Jebsen Centre for Alzheimer's Disease is a Nobel Prize winning research from laboratory to national research centre of interdisciplinary experts patient. To accomplish this, the Jebsen team of experts united in the common goal of determining the onset collaborate on a set of projects designed to bridge the of Alzheimer's and the early stages of disease developgaps from basic science to clinical implementation. ment. The vision of the Jebsen centre is to translate





Photo: Rita Elmkvist Nilsen / Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience



ERC Synergy Grant #KiloNeurons

European Research Council awarded 10 million euros to a Synergy Grant for Professors Edvard Moser and Yoram Burak. After decades of investigating single cells, a breakthrough in technology has made it possible to record thousands of neurons interacting during cognitive operations.



New research groups



Navarro Schröder Group Principal investigator Tobias Navarro Schröder. Topic: Vision and navigation



Nigro Group Principal investigator Maximiliano Jose Nigro. Topic: Perception and cognition



Quattrocolo Group Principal investigator Giulia Quattrocolo. Topic: Circuit development

2021

Neuropixels 2.0 – a new favorite in neuroscientists' toolboxes





cells across a brain area. What they actually record, are the very neural conversations from which our intellectual abilities like learning and memory arise.

Photo: Richard Gardener / Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience



Torus – grid cells 2.0!

WE MOVE ALONG THE SURFACE OF A DONUT Whether the rat is exploring, running, dreaming, or resting deeply asleep, its brain's GPS constituted by the joint activity of grid cells always move along the surface of a torus. This first insight into how the mammalian brain organizes high-level brain function in neural networks, also labelled grid cells 2.0, was published on BioRxiv in 2021 by Kavli researchers (peer-reviewed version published in Nature, 2022).

The image to the left is an artistic interpretations of the donut we navigate by, made by Helmet and Kavli Communication. The image at the bottom shows the neural data from a network of grid cells in the brain of Roger the rat, collected by Moser Group researcher Richard Gardner.





Photo: Rita Elmkvist Nilsen / Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience



DeepMREye for the Brain



Photo: Private

A new tool developed at the Kavli Institute reads your eyes from MRI scans. Your eye movements can reveal your thoughts, your memories, your goals and even brain disease!



Mohn Research Center for the Brain

The university of Bergen and the Kavli Institute at NTNU are joining forces on brain research with support from the Trond Mohn Foundation. The overriding objective of the research center is to identify the core principles of the brain plasticity and neural circuit dynamics in the brain.



Photo: University of Bergen



Ziaei Group

Principal investigator Maryam Ziaei starts up new research group – the Kavli Institute's aging neuroscience group.





Mini2P – the brain explorer!

An innovation by the Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience.

Mini2P is an open-source miniature 2-photon microscope brain explorer for fast high-resolution calcium imaging in freely-moving mice. Mini2P allows stable simultaneous recording of



Photo: Weijian Zong / Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience

Image courtesy by Moser Group researcher Weijian Zong

Photo: Rita Elmkvist Nilsen / Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience

more than a thousand cells across multiple planes of densely active cortical regions in a wide spectrum of behavioral tasks without impediment of the animal's behavior.

Highlights

HIGH IMPACT PUBLICATIONS

Andersson, **S.O., Moser, E.I. & Moser, MB** (2021). Visual stimulus features that elicit activity in object-vector cells. *Communications Biology 4*, 1219.

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Huuha, A. M., Norevik, C. S., Moreira, J. B. N., Kobro-Flatmoen, A., Scrimgeour, N., Kivipelto, M., Van Praag, H., **Ziaei, M.**, Sando, S. B., Wisløff, U., & Tari, A. R. (2022). Can Exercise Training Teach Us How to Treat Alzheimer's disease? *Ageing Res Rev*, 101559. doi.org/10.1016/j.arr.2022.101559

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Kermen F., Darnet L., Wiest C., Palumbo F., Bechert J., Uslu O., **Yaksi E.** (2019) Investigating olfactory behaviours in adult zebrafish. *bioRxiv*: biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/859033v1

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Mimica B, Tombaz T, Battistin C, Fuglstad JG, Dunn BA, Whitlock JR. (2022) Behavioral decomposition reveals rich encoding structure employed across neocortex. *bioRxiv*, doi. org/10.1101/2022.02.08.479515. (in revision at Nature Communications)

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Ohara S, Rannap M, Tsutsui K-I, Draguhn A, Egorov AV, **Witter MP** (2022). Hippocampal-medial entorhinal circuit is differently organized along the dorsoventral axis in rodents. *bioRxiv* doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.05.30.493979; Cell Reports, Accepted for publication

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PRIZES, HONORS, AWARDS, AND ELECTIONS TO REPUTABLE COMMITTEES

Christian Doeller

• Elected member of Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters (official start January 2023).

Asgeir Kobro-Flatmoen

• Elected chair of the Young Academy of the KG. Jebsen Foundation

Annual accounts 2022

May-Britt Moser

- Vilhelm Magnus Award Neurosurgery, Nevrokirurgisk avdeling, Universitetet i Oslo
- · Julius Axelrod Distinguished Visiting Neuroscientist Lecturer, University of Ontario, virtual
- Mike Hogg Award Lecture, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Edvard Moser

- Honorary doctorate at Caesar Vallejo University, Lima and Trujillo, Peru
- International Steering Committee of the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Science at the Hebrew University of lerusalem (SAB)
- International Scientific Advisory Board of Chinese Institute of Brain Research, Beijing (SAB)
- · Elected as one of five editors of Principles of Neuroscience VII to appear in 2027

Maximiliano Jose Nigro / Luis Cobar

 Marie Sklodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship to postdoctoral fellow Dr. Luis Cobar, host supervisor Dr. Maximiliano Jose Nigro

Giulia Quattrocolo

• Selected for the Outstanding Academic Fellow Program at NTNU

Yasser Roudi

• Elected member of the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters

Jonathan Whitlock

- Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions Seal of Excellence (as supervisor to applicant)
- Named as Director of the Norwegian Research School in Neuroscience (NSRN)
- Named as Review Committee Chair, Human Frontiers Science Program (HFSP)
- Reviewing editor for Frontiers in Cellular Neuroscience special topic, "Topic "Recording, Analysis and Modeling of Mesoscale Neural Activities"

Menno P. Witter

- Doctor Honoris Causa UCLouvain, Belgium 5 May 2022 • Elected member of the Academia Europaea 2022
- Elected member of the EBRAINS Science and Technology Committee

Maryam Ziaei

• Elected as a subgroup leader of COST Action (CA20104) on the topic of "Impact of exercise on cognitive functions and brain biomarkers"

GRANTS

Tobias Navarro Schröder

 Helse Midt-Norge, Samarbeidsorganet, PhD and project funds to study patients with "transient global amnesia" (TGA)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Edvard Moser

Co-organizer of Kavli Prize lectures at NTNU

Menno P. Witter and Cliff Kentros

• Tools and the Study of Brain Systems: New Vistas. JANUBET SYMPOSIUM Kyoto University Japan. Organizing committee: Isa T and Takada M, Kyoto Univ; Tsutsui K-I Tohoku Univ; Kentros C and Witter MP NTNU KISN

Yasser Roudi

 Mathematical Methods in Computational Neuroscience, Fred Kavli Science Centre, Eresfjord, Norway 20 July-5 Aug 2022

Maryam Ziaei

· Organized and coordinated a virtual event with participants from 20 different countries across Europe as part of the COST action

PHF DEFENCES CARRIED OUT AT KISN

Ewelina Bartoszek-Kandler (f), Jan Sigurd Blackstad (m), Sverre Myren-Svelstad (m)

INCOME

Norwegian Research Council: Centre of Excellence Norwegian Research Council: Other International funding Other public/private Funds Norwegian University of Science and Technology

TOTAL INCOME

EXPENSES

Payroll and indirect expenses Equipment Other operating expenses

TOTAL EXPENSES

Figures in mNOK

** including 12,5 mNOK of Nobel Prize contribution from The Ministry of Education (Edvard and May-Britt Moser)

THE RESEARCH FUND OF THE KAVLI INSTITUTE FOR SYSTEMS NEUROSCIENCE Trondheim Foundation for Scientific Research (TFSR)

TFSR is a non-profit organization with the sole purpose of providing research funds to the Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience, in support of scientific advancement in the field of fundamental neuroscience to the benefit of humanity.

Approximately one-half of the Foundation's research fund comes from The Kavli Foundation, established by the late Norwegian-American business-man and philanthropist Fred Kavli. Other major contributors are Pauline Braathen and the nieces and nephew of Egil Braathen, the Norwegian organization Ensliges Landsforbund (EL). Selskabet for Trondhiems Bys vel, Sparebankstiftelsen SMN, Gjensidigestiftelsen, and since 2021 Nils-Jarle Sætre with his successful fundraising campaign "Til topps mot Alzheimer". In addition, the foundation has received larger and smaller amounts from individuals, companies, organizations, as well as testamentary gifts and donations from funerals. TFSR appreciates all contributions.

17	500
11	100
16	200
12	100
88	100*
145	000
107	600
4	200
33	200
1 4 5	000
145	000

Boards

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Stig Slørdahl CEO Central Norway Regional Health Authority



Valentina Emiliani Research Director Institute de la Vision, Paris



Michael Hausser Professor University College London



Per Sigvald Bakke Dean Faculty of Medicine University of Bergen

Faculty 2021



May-Britt Moser Professor Director of Centre for Neural Computation



Edvard Moser Professor Director of KISN



Menno Witter Professor



Yasser Roudi Professor





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Jonathan Whitlock Associate professor



Clifford Kentros Professor



Emre Yaksi Professor



Christian Doeller Professor 20%



Maryam Ziaei Associate professor







Giulia Quattrocolo Researcher



Tobias Navarro Schröder Associate professor













Spatial activity maps shown for 300 grid cells recorded through a miniature two-photon microscope (MINI2P).

EDITORS: Kavli Directors & Kavli Communication

CONTRIBUTORS:

Rita Elmkvist Nilsen Pia Johansen Lise Krogh Berg

COVER IMAGE: The MINI2P image is collected by Moser Group researcher Weijian Zong

LAYOUT AND PRINT: Pitch Studio AS and Skipnes Trykkeri AS

DOWNLOAD: www.ntnu.edu/kavli/outreach



visual output --> motor input



Fluorescently labeled output pathways from the mouse visual cortex (cyan) overlap with input pathways to motor cortex (magenta) in higher visual areas (colored squares). By using this dual tracer approach, we see the anatomical pathways by which the motor system receives visual input, enabling visually guided motor behavior.

Image courtesy of Karoline Hovde from the Whitlock Group

KAVLI INSTITUTE FOR SYSTEMS NEUROSCIENCE CENTRE FOR NEURAL COMPUTATION K. G. JEBSEN CENTRE FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE MOHN RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE BRAIN EGIL AND PAULINE BRAATHEN AND FRED KAVLI CENTRE FOR CORTICAL MICROCIRCUITS

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Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience