The International Alliance for Translational Neuroscience

The International Alliance for Translational Neuroscience (IATN) is an international multi-institutional organization aimed at achieving decisive advancements in the field of neuroscience and associated disorders by utilizing existing strengths of each institution to promote integration of research, education/training and collaboration of translational neuroscience research activities among the member institutions.

Basic and clinical scientists are increasingly aware of the necessity, and difficulties, to translate new basic knowledge to the clinic - and back again to the bench. The magnitude of these challenges may in fact hamper the advancement of clinical research at a time when it should be expanding. Translational research is a powerful process that drives the clinical research engine. Many countries and institutions have paid special attention to these problems and initiated the establishment platforms for translational research. Needless to say, an integration of excellent basic research, powerful resources and advanced technologies will distinctly strengthen and accelerate the translational processes, especially if this can be accomplished in a coordinated way at multiple institutions around the world. The IATN will act as an advocate for translational neuroscience research and education among the member institutions, by: 1) build international collaboration centers for Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, nerve injury, stroke, epilepsy, brain tumors, psychiatric disorders and other major brain disorders to share resources including, but not limited to, clinical data and tissue banks, transgenic animals and related tissues, equipment and technical expertise in the context of the Alliance; 2) organize conferences and workshops in the translational neuroscience field to provide fora for better interactions between principal investigator and their teams from the member institutions; 3) establish a joint PhD program, supported by Capital Medical University (CMU), to foster collaborative research in mutual areas of excellence between CMU and other members.



The IATN was founded on August 29, 2012 in Beijing, China. Its host institution is the Beijing Institute for Brain Disorders, Capital Medical University in Beijing. The six institutional members are the Founders of the Alliance: Beijing Institute for Brain Disorders, Capital Medical University, China; Department of Neurosciences, Karolinska Institute, Sweden; Massachusetts General Hospital, USA; McGovern Institute for Brain Research, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA; Brain Research Center, University of British Columbia, Canada; and Florey Institutes of Neuroscience and Mental Health, University of Melbourne, Australia. The creation of the IATN represents a powerful step forward in collaboration and productivity, drawing together leading neuroscientists from internationally recognized institutions worldwide to improve our quality of life through translational neuroscience research.

(Forwarded by Professor Zhi-qing Xu and Dr. Jian-liang Zhang)