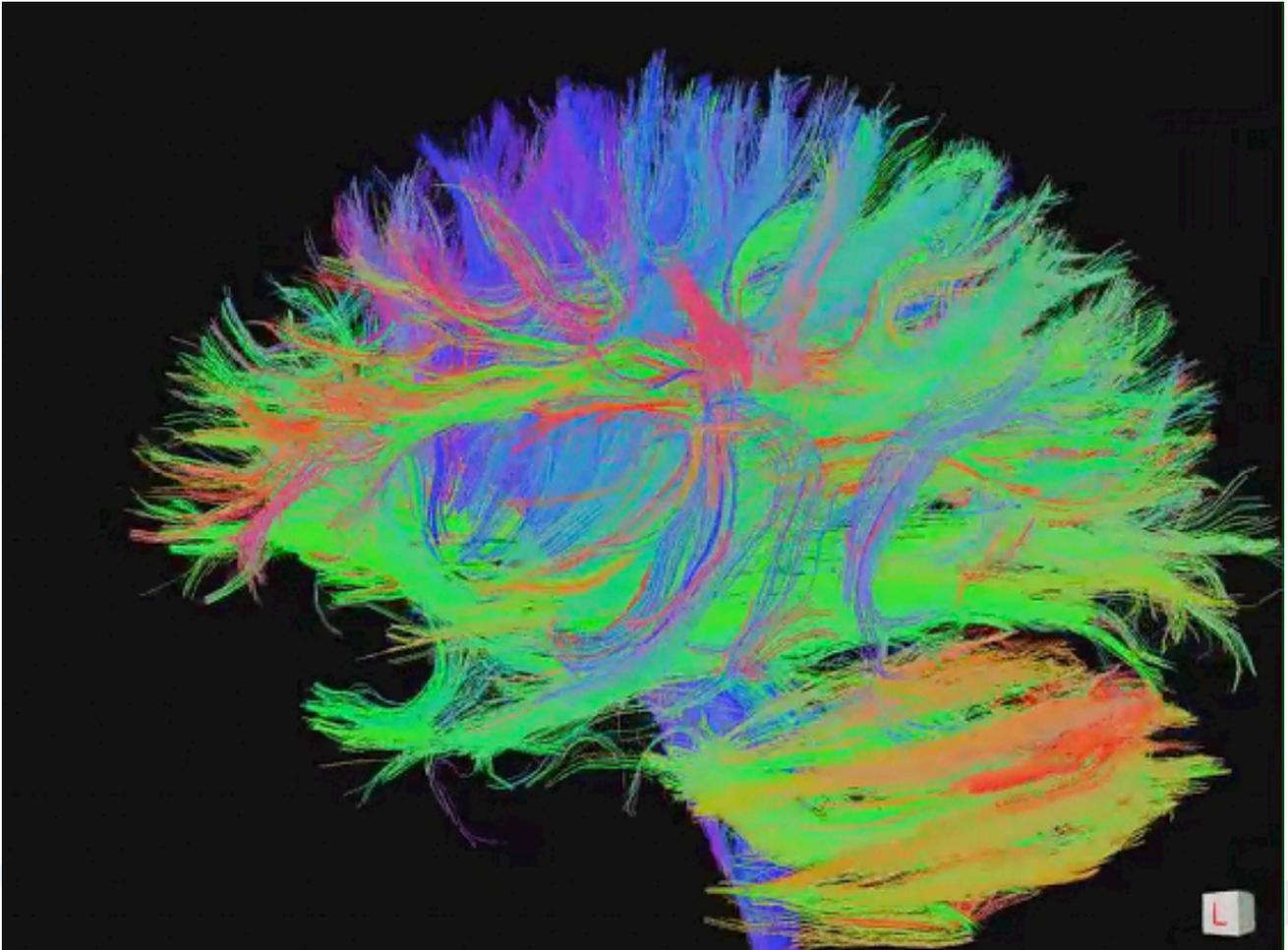




## The brain in space



### **A SISSA colloquium with Henry Kennedy to discover the connectome**

**30th March 2016, 3.00 pm  
SISSA, Main Lecture Hall  
Via Bonomea 265, Trieste**

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>, a conference about the brain will be held at SISSA: why do the various areas of the brain have their specific shapes, why are they found in specific locations, what is the role of connections? These are the questions that Henry Kennedy, neuroscientist at INSERM (Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale) in Lyon, invited speaker at the next SISSA colloquium will attempt to answer. The event is free and open to the public, and will be held in English.



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We have long known that the brain is divided into functional areas (visual, auditory, motor, associative...) and that these areas communicate with one another through nerve connections (which together are known as the connectome). Henry Kennedy and his group at INSERM in Lyon are studying the distribution, length and density of these connections in order to gain insight into the function and evolution of the brain. Why is each area located in a specific position? Why does each area have a specific shape? Why do we observe a certain distribution of connections between the areas, which in part seems to depend on the length of the connections? Kennedy believes that all this is the result of evolutionary pressure rather than chance. The database of brain connections in primates which he is developing with his group will help to better understand the brain "in space", an important aspect to be considered when studying its functions.

These are the topics that Kennedy will address in the next SISSA colloquium scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> in the "P. Budinich" Main Lecture Hall. The conference will be held in English and is open to the public.

### ***Henry Kennedy***

Kennedy is director of research at INSERM in Lyon, where he heads the Stem-Cell and Brain Research Institute. He has authored numerous research papers published in international journals (over 100), and his studies focus on the connectome (in particular of macaques). He has made the results of his work available to the public by publishing online a database of connections in primates, which can be found at: [www.core-nets.org](http://www.core-nets.org)

### **IMAGES:**

- Credits: [jgmarcelino \(Wikimedia commons: https://goo.gl/W2TSfM\)](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Henry_Kennedy)

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