

Embargo until December 1, 2011, 20.00 CET

Klosterneuburg, December 1, 2011

## **Two new Professors to join IST Austria**

**Number of IST Professors rises to 22 • Strong additions in the field of neuroscience • President Thomas Henzinger: “Demonstration of growing attractiveness” • Two new members on the Board of Trustees**

President Thomas Henzinger today announced the appointment of two further group leaders. Simon Hippenmeyer will join IST Austria as Assistant Professor and Ryuichi Shigemoto as Professor. Both will join the dynamically growing neuroscience cluster currently consisting of Peter Jonas, Jozsef Csicsvari and Gasper Tkacik. Hippenmeyer will start working in Klosterneuburg in the summer of 2012 while Shigemoto will commence his research on campus in early 2013.

Thomas Henzinger expressed his delight: “With Simon Hippenmeyer and Ryuichi Shigemoto we recruited a total of six professors in 2011. This brings the number of research groups on campus to 22, with professors coming from 12 different countries. With these appointments we continue to display the attractiveness of IST Austria for outstanding scientists.”

**Simon Hippenmeyer** is a Swiss neurobiologist, born in 1975. He studied molecular biology (MA) at the Biozentrum of the University of Basel and received his PhD in 2004 after performing his predoctoral studies in the group of Sylvia Arber at the Friedrich Miescher Institute in Basel. He spent two more years as a postdoctoral fellow in Sylvia’s Arber lab before he moved on to join the laboratory of Liqun Luo as a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University where he has been a research associate since May 2011.

A core interest of his research is the dissection of the cellular and molecular mechanisms of neuronal development. Hippenmeyer will set out to answer questions like how neuronal diversity in the brain is generated, how molecular signaling mechanisms control neuronal migration and the role of genomic imprinting, an epigenetic phenomenon, in the developing neocortex. This research program is based on interdisciplinary experimental approaches including mouse genetic techniques, the MADM methodology, 4D live-imaging and gene expression profiling at the single cell level.

**Ryuichi Shigemoto**, born in 1960 in Japan, studied medicine at the University of Kyoto and received his MD in 1985 and his PhD in 1994 after performing research in the groups of Noboru Mizuno and Shigetada Nakanishi. He was appointed as an Assistant Professor at Kyoto University Faculty of Medicine in 1989 and at the Department of Morphological Brain Science in 1990. Since 1998 he has been Professor at the National Institute for Physiological Sciences in Okazaki.

Ryuichi Shigemoto's research program is focused on the mechanisms of signaling and plasticity in the brain. In particular, he is interested in the subcellular localization of transmitter receptors and the mechanisms of long-term stabilization of memory. He is a world-leading pioneer of a cutting-edge technique called SDS-digested freeze-fracture replica labeling (SDS-FRL), a method for detecting single membrane proteins with unprecedented sensitivity. He previously used this method as well as conventional immune-electron microscopy for elucidating the precise localization of glutamate and GABA receptors in the brain. His publication record is outstanding. In total, he published 258 research articles, in both highly regarded international multidisciplinary journals and leading neuroscience journals. The seminal nature of his research is also reflected by an ISI Citation Laureate Award in 2000 and his h-index of 65.

Thomas Henzinger: "Hippenmeyer's and Shigemoto's research at the forefront of modern neurobiology are great additions to the already strong neuroscience presence at IST Austria. At the same time their research will be synergistically useful to the groups in cell biology and biophysics."

In other news Henzinger announced that the Board of Trustees in its meeting on November 29 took the decision that the former CEO of OMV AG, Dr. Wolfgang Ruttenstorfer, replaces Mag. Alfred Ötsch as member of the Executive Committee of IST Austria. On the Board of Trustees Ötsch has been succeeded by Dr. Peter Layr, CEO of EVN, and Dr. Wolfgang Schürer, Chairman of the Foundation Lindau Nobelprizewinners Meetings and Vice-President of the Council for Lindau Nobel Laureates Meetings, followed DI Hansjörg Tengg. Henzinger expressed his gratitude to Alfred Ötsch and to Hansjörg Tengg for their services as members of the Board of Trustees since 2007.

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### **IST Austria**

The Institute of Science and Technology (IST Austria) is a PhD granting research institution located in Klosterneuburg, 18 km from the center of Vienna, Austria. Inaugurated in 2009, the Institute is dedicated to basic research in the natural and mathematical sciences. The Institute employs professors on a tenure-track system; postdoctoral fellows; and doctoral students at its international graduate school. While dedicated to the principle of curiosity-driven research, the Institute owns the rights to all scientific discoveries and is committed to promote their use. The first president of IST Austria is Thomas A. Henzinger, a leading computer scientist and former professor of the University of California, Berkeley, and the EPFL in Lausanne, Switzerland.