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Subject: [CBS] \$25 million NSF grant to team including 6 CBS faculty
Date: September 10, 2013 11:52:14 AM EDT
To: "cbs@lists.fas.harvard.edu" <cbs@lists.fas.harvard.edu>

Friends, I am happy to announce that a CBS partnership with MIT has landed a major grant from the NSF. You can read about it on our website <http://cbs.fas.harvard.edu/> and below.

Best,

Kenny

\$25 million NSF grant to team including 6 CBS faculty

The National Science Foundation (NSF) announced a \$25 million award over 5 years to a new Science and Technology Center (STC) called the Center for Brains, Minds and Machines. This STC will be a multi-institution collaboration, with a partnership between MIT and Harvard at its heart.

The startling triumphs of Deep Blue in chess and Watson in Jeopardy, coupled with news of driverless cars and drones making automated landings on aircraft carriers, not to mention the commercial splash made by Siri, make it clear that advances in machine learning have been profound. Nevertheless, it is clear that these specialized systems are not intelligent in the manner of humans or even mice. The new STC will combine neuroscience and cognitive science with computer science and engineering to renew an attack on this problem of intelligence in brains and machines.

The new STC will be headquartered at MIT and led by Tomaso Poggio; Mahadevan will be the associate director from Harvard. Ten of the

Center faculty are from MIT, 6 are from CBS, and one each if from Cornell, Rockefeller, UCLA, Stanford, and the Allen Institute for Brain Science. Also affiliated with center are Howard University; Hunter College; Universidad Central del Caribe, Puerto Rico; the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras; and Wellesley College.

CBS faculty in the Center are Mahadevan, Gabriel Kreiman, Ken Nakayama, Haim Sompolinsky, Liz Spelke, and Les Valiant. CBS will oversee the administration of the Harvard part of this award.

The Center will have five main research themes: circuits for intelligence; the development of intelligence in children; social intelligence; the integration of visual, motor, language, and social intelligence; and theoretical aspects of intelligence. The Center aims to foster collaboration not just between institutions but also across disciplinary boundaries. Graduate students and postdocs funded through the center will have joint advisors, generally drawn from different research areas.

The Center will have industrial partnerships with Google, Microsoft, IBM, Mobileye, Orcam, Boston Dynamics, Willow Garage, Deep Minds, and Rethink Robotics. It also will have international partners: the Italian Institute of Technology in Genoa; the Max Planck Institute in Tübingen; City University of Hong Kong; the National Centre for Biological Sciences in Bangalore; the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot; and Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

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