June 12, 2014

LabEX CORTEX
Report of the Scientific Advisory Board meeting
on June 5–6, 2014

Prof. Henry Kennedy

Per your request, please find below our evaluations of the scientific excellence of the research teams of LabEX CORTEX. We list the teams in the order of their oral presentations during our SAB meeting on June 5–6, 2014 in Lyon.

In our 3-step scale, A+ means outstanding world-level research, A refers to excellent research that might still be improved, and A– means great work where some redirection might be considered. We have added brief recommendations, when appropriate.

In general, we were impressed by the scientific excellence, innovativeness, wide coverage of research fields, and the achievements presented by the teams of the LabEX CORTEX. Some of the work we saw was really outstanding.

We noticed a clear coherence among several axes in the consortium. In the work of Savatier–Dehay–Kennedy the focus is on primate cells and circuits, as rodents are considered too different from primates/humans to be really helpful for many problems. Bertrand–Koenig–Duhamel–Villeval–Procyk–Dreher groups study different aspects of emotion, cognition, social interaction and their neuronal underpinnings, and closer interaction could benefit all parties.

It was impressive and encouraging to see top-notch primate work across a range of approaches, from stem cell biology through electrophysiology and anatomy to functional imaging. In Europe, such breadth and excellence in primate biology is rare. We were also pleased to see that human intracranial recordings have been organized so that they benefit several research teams from basic to clinical neuroscience.

We regard highly your strong and insightful scientific leadership of LabEx CORTEX. We would like to congratulate you for the excellent work you are doing and sincerely hope that his leadership can continue for the years to come.

We thank for the stimulating and well-organized meeting and hospitality.

Sincerely,

Riitta Hari (Finland), Chair
Salvatore M. Aglioti (Italy)
Yves Barde (United Kingdom)
Niels Birbaumer (Germany)
Colin Camerer (USA)
Matthew Cook (Switzerland)
Pascal Fries (Germany)
David Price (United Kingdom)
Wolf Singer (Germany)