Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience

Presentation of the BCCN Freiburg at the Science Fair of the University of Freiburg ("Wissenschaftsmarkt") 2005

Every other year, the University of Freiburg invites the public to learn about its current research. For that purpose, the University goes to where the action is: to the historic center of its old city, on the busy Rathausplatz ("City Hall Square"). In especially arranged tents, researchers from all disciplines offer hands-on scientific experiences.
At the stand of the Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience, people could take a multi-media guided tour through the brain.

Despite the tropical temperatures, many Freiburg citizens stopped to listen to "brain music" that was created from the activity of multiple neurons. A microscope allowed the visitors to catch a glance of one of these neurons that was stained until the very last tips of its countless branches.

"I never thought I would have to travel to Germany to see, for the first time in my life, a real axon and a dendrite!" commented a surprised visitor from overseas who had stumbled across the BCCN stand on a tourist visit to Europe.

Children and adolescents were most attracted to the real-size brain models that could be disassembled into their major parts to reveal the intricacy of the brain's design. Occasionally, even medical students got new insights while playing with these models.

Beyond these hands-on approaches to the brain, people could also learn about current research topics at the BCCN.

Special interest gained the Center's brain machine interface project, in which researchers take first steps at building a 'neural prosthesis' that can use brain activity to control a prosthetic device. Although much work still has to done in order to succeed in this ambitious task, the public's enthusiasm about this approach reheartened the researchers in their efforts to pursue this tedious endeavour.

Download the science fair flyer here (German)...
Read more about the Freiburg science fair (German) ...

History

Action	Performed by	Date and Time	Comment
Publish	Dancoisne	Sep 25, 2006 10:43 PM	No comments.