



Thursday, November 18, 2010

MIT scientist wins \$1.3M grant from Paul Allen foundation

By Rodney H. Brown

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An MIT professor and researcher has landed a million dollar-plus share of \$9.4 million given out by the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation to advance neuroscience and cellular engineering research.

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Edward S. Boyden, the Benesse Career Development Professor at MIT Media Lab and an associate member at the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT, will get \$1.3 million for his project titled: "Massively Parallel, Three-Dimensional, Circuitwide Recording of Neural Activity." According to the foundation, Boyden is working on new devices for creating real-time electrical maps of the brain in three dimensions.

The device will be a new kind of probe that can record the activity of neurons at multiple sites in the brain, to study how distributed neurons work together and what happens when they don't.

Boyden, who heads the MIT Media Lab's Synthetic Neurobiology research group, will receive the \$1.3 million given out under the Allen Distinguished Investigator Awards over the course of three years, foundation officials said. The remainder of the grants were awarded to the University of Washington, California Institute of Technology, Stanford University and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, based in Seattle, was established 20 years ago by Allen, one of the co-founders of Microsoft Corp. In that time it has given away more than 3,000 grants totaling over \$400 million.

In February 2008, as an assistant professor at MIT, Boyden landed one of the [\\$50,000 Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Research Fellowships](#) given to promising young scientists. In September 2007, he won a \$1.5 million, [five-year National Institutes of Health grant](#).

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