



AMERICAN  
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## **Professor Henry Markram - 2014**

Director of the Blue Brain Project and  
Coordinator of the Human Brain Project

Henry Markram is a professor of neuroscience at the Swiss Federal Institute for Technology in Lausanne (EPFL). He is a founder of the Brain Mind Institute, founder and director of the Blue Brain Project, and the coordinator of the Human Brain Project, which aims to construct a computerized simulation of the human brain. The HBP was selected in January 2013 as one of the European Commission's Future Emerging Technologies Flagship projects, with a grant of more than €1 billion over the next ten years. The initiative involves researchers in 80 institutions across Europe from biologists, neurobiologists and biochemists to computer scientists and engineers. Markram believes that the HBP may lead not only to a paradigm shift in our understanding of the brain and its illnesses, but that it could also provide new, innovative concepts for designing computers and robots. Markram also aims for the Human Brain Project to spur a new approach to mental health globally.

There is a global network of brain research, Professor Markram informed the guests, with the European project planning to start putting the pieces together. This is a trillion, trillion piece puzzle, but we have only 40% of the pieces. Once the "digital" brain is built, research and experiments can be performed on this digital brain, decreasing the need for laboratory experience. Clinicians will be able to "step into your brain", scanning you, entering your details into a database which will be able to place you in a disease cluster which best fits your illness and then be able to prescribe treatments specific to your disease.

The project will soon have a home in Geneva, including plans to build a "brainarium" giving everyone the opportunity to "step inside the brain" His plan being that all major science museums around the world, will house a Brain Exhibition, giving children worldwide access to this fascinating technology.

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