

# The BRAIN Initiative and the Impact on Health and Disease

Breakthrough Biomedical Philanthropy  
Nicholas Spitzer  
The Kavli Institute for Brain and Mind

State of the Union Address  
February, 2013

“...mapping the human brain...”



The New York Times

## Obama to Unveil Initiative to Map the Human Brain

By JOHN MARKOFF and JAMES GORMAN

Published: April 2, 2013



## National Initiatives

1961 Man on the Moon

1971 War on Cancer

1990 Human Genome Project

2013 BRAIN Initiative

## Basis for Success

Visionary goal

Good timing

Focused objective

Great economics

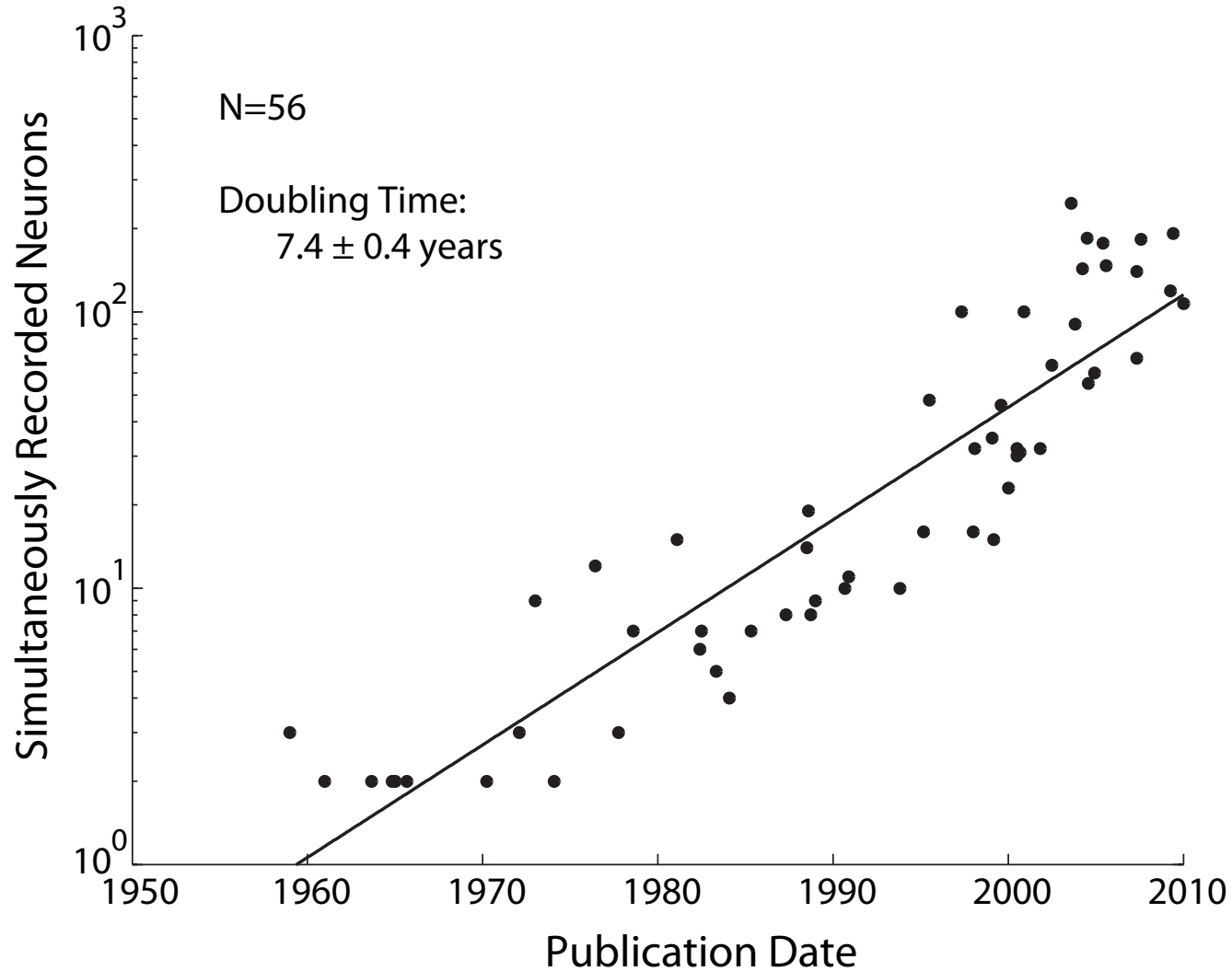
Center for Brain Activity Mapping  
UC San Diego

May 14, 2013

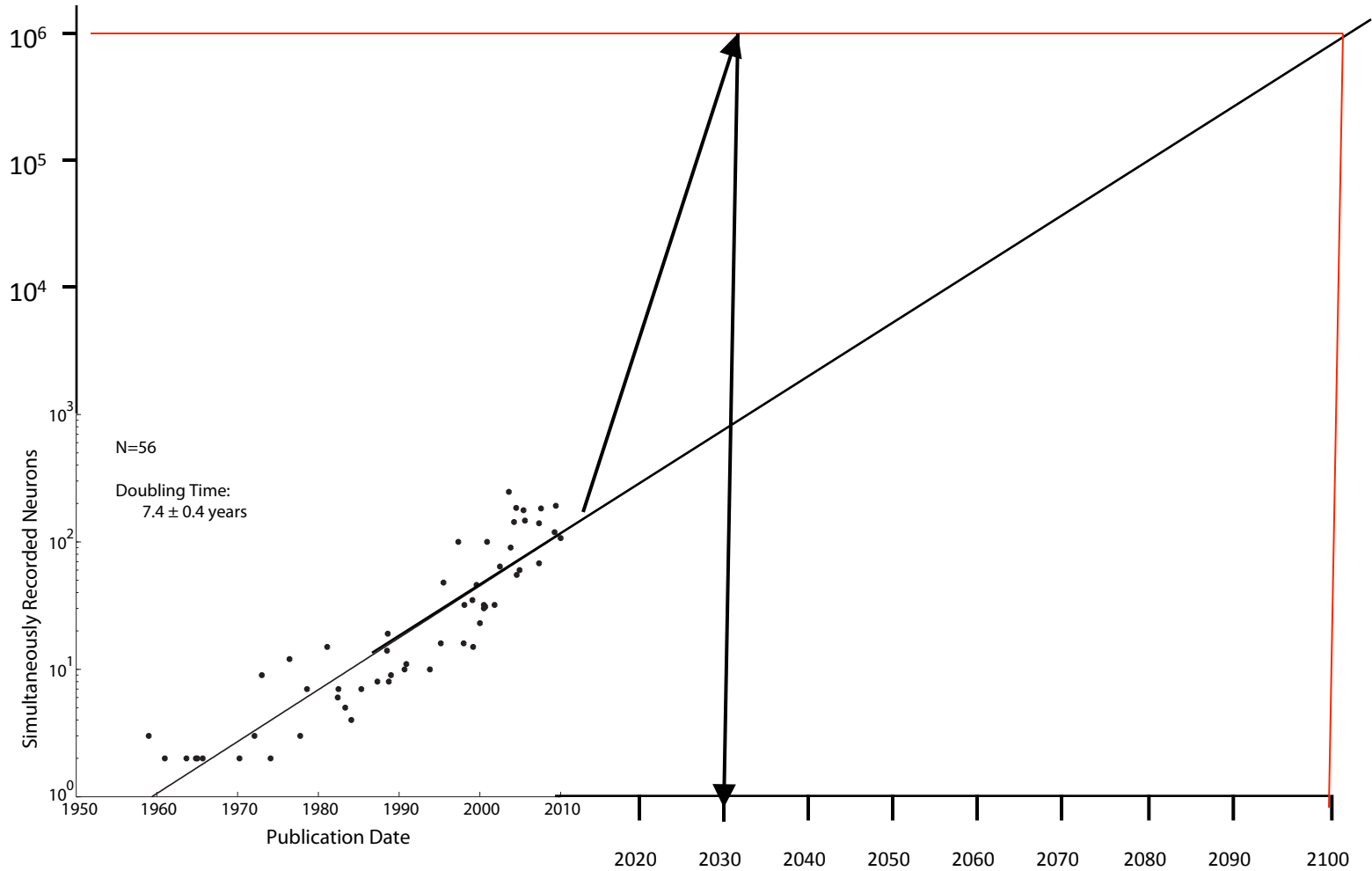
Ralph Greenspan, Director  
Nick Spitzer, Director, Kavli Institute for Brain and Mind

- Stimulated conversations between engineers and neuroscientists
- Awarded seed money grants for collaborative research
- Convened scientific meetings to rapidly disseminate progress

# Moore's Law for Neurons



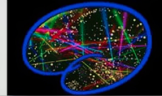
# Moore's Law for Neurons, with the BRAIN Initiative



## Examples of funded seed money grants

- A fully-encapsulated, wireless, modular, and conformable neural recording system
- Enzyme encapsulating nanoshells to probe and modulate neurotransmitter distribution
- Multi-focus optical microscopy for 3D imaging of nervous systems
- Focused transcranial magnetic stimulation





## SENSOR TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

**JUNE 4, 2014 8:00AM – 5:30PM**

ATKINSON HALL, QUALCOMM INSTITUTE, UCSD

A Symposium Sponsored by  
the Center for Brain Activity Mapping at UCSD

Registration at [cbamsensor2014.eventbrite.com](http://cbamsensor2014.eventbrite.com)

The B.R.A.I.N. Initiative faces a major technological barrier in obtaining high resolution, real-time recordings of brain activity over large areas of the brain. Leading researchers will explore available and promising approaches to surmounting that barrier, exploring current work and future possibilities for the detection and recording of the range of relevant electrical and chemical signals in the nervous system.

### speakers

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>ralph greenspan</b>        | <i>Opening Remarks</i>   |
| <b>adam cohen</b>             | <i>All-optical Electrophysiology with Microbial Rhodospins</i>         |
| <b>alan jasanoff</b>          | <i>Molecular Probes for Noninvasive Neuroimaging</i>                   |
| <b>james schuck</b>           | <i>Optimizing Nanocrystals for Deep-Tissue Imaging</i>                 |
| <b>erkki ruoslahti</b>        | <i>Targeting of the Brain and its Diseases with Nanoparticles</i>      |
| <b>ania bleszynski jayich</b> | <i>Nanoscale Sensing with Diamond Spins: Prospects for Bio-sensing</i> |
| <b>r. mark wightman</b>       | <i>Electrochemical Monitoring of Neurotransmitters and Metabolites</i> |
| <b>paul weiss</b>             | <i>Developing Nanoscale Measurements for the Brain</i>                 |

# First Annual CBAM Seed Grant Symposium

March 6, 2015

1:00pm – 5:00pm

San Diego Supercomputer Center,  
UC San Diego

*"Our ultimate goal is no less than a full understanding of the global network activity of the brain." - Ralph Greenspan*

Achieving this goal requires that we develop the capability of monitoring real-time activity in the brain in a comprehensive way, a project that cannot succeed without integrating neuroscience with engineering. Our Center will provide the framework for this program of integration by catalyzing and supporting joint projects for research and training.

*A Symposium Sponsored by the Center for Brain Activity Mapping at UCSD*  
[cbam.ucsd.edu](http://cbam.ucsd.edu)

## State Cal-BRAIN Act of 2014

### SB-836 Brain research: Cal-BRAIN program

[California Blueprint for Research to Advance Innovations in Neuroscience]

- Budget of \$2 million voted in the legislature, June 15<sup>th</sup>
- SB-836 wound up on the Governor's desk
- Was spent in 2014-2015 to jump start the program
- “(f) The BRAIN Initiative has the potential to be a major driver of
- new industries and jobs in biotechnology, artificial intelligence,
- and information technologies, as well as a catalyst for major breakthroughs in brain-related diseases, injuries, and illnesses...”

## The Plan for San Diego

- Innovative **neurotechnology** will be developed here
- Companies will be founded
- Students will be trained in neurotechnology
- Jobs will become available in this sector
- Patients will benefit from this technology

## Patient Benefits

- Early diagnosis
- Continuous monitoring
- Less invasive
- Less expensive
- Useful across medical fields





## Acknowledgements

The Kavli Foundation  
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Terry Sejnowski

Chancellor Pradeep Khosla  
UC President Bob Dynes  
UC President Dick Atkinson