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NYSCF – ROBERTSON NEUROSCIENCE INVESTIGATOR AWARDED BRAIN PRIZE

Edward Boyden recognized with fellow scientist for pioneering new neuroscience field

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK (March 11, 2013) – Edward Boyden, PhD, NYSCF – Robertson Neuroscience Investigator and Benesse Career Development Professor and associate professor of biological engineering and brain and cognitive sciences at MIT, shares the 2013 Grete Lundbeck European Brain Research Prize for the "invention and refinement of optogenetics."

Optogenetics combines advances in gene therapy and fiber optics to activate single neurons at a time. Given the density of brain tissue, this novel technique enables Boyden and colleagues to precisely control neurons and to even modify behavior in mice with just light.

"At NYSCF, we seek out and support excellence and innovation. Dr. Boyden's work has opened up an entirely new field of research to radically transform how we investigate disease," said Susan L. Solomon, CEO of The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF).

The NYSCF – Robertson Investigator program supports early career scientists as they move beyond postdoctoral training to establish their own laboratories. Boyden was selected to the 2012 Neuroscience Investigator class. He currently leads the Synthetic Neurobiology group at the MIT Media Lab, with the aim to develop tools to examine and better understand neural circuitry to ultimately find treatments to diseases like Parkinson's disease, chronic pain, and epilepsy.

The Brain Prize, awarded annually by the Lundbeck Foundation in recognition of outstanding contributions to neuroscience, will be shared equally amongst awardees. The five other recipients are Ernst Bamberg, Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, Georg Nagel, and Gero Miesenböck.

"It's always great to see how basic science can yield new tools for engineering. It's extremely exciting to see this arc of science. We live in an age of omni-disciplinary collaboration: all the major groups that play a role in this were recognized," said Boyden.

About the New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF)
The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) combines private philanthropy, the flexibility of a non-profit organization, and an entrepreneurial drive to enable the

unrestricted pursuit of research that will accelerate development of stem cell-based treatments and cures for patients with unmet medical needs.

The Foundation has created a new model of translational research that breaks down the barriers that slow discovery and replaces silos with collaboration. The Foundation conducts research in its laboratory in New York City and supports research by stem cell scientists at other leading institutions around the world. More information is available at www.nyscf.org.

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