



Open your mind!

European Month of the Brain

May 2013 #brainmonth



Scuola di Studi Superiori dell'Università di Torino

Thursday, 30 May - h. 17:30

**Aula Magna del Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita e Biologia dei Sistemi
Università degli Studi di Torino - Via Accademia Albertina n. 13, Torino**

Evolution and development of the cerebral cortex

**Prof. Oscar Marín, Instituto de Neurociencias, Consejo Superior de
Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) Sant Joan d'Alacant, Spain**



The cerebral cortex constitutes one of the most complex systems in the Universe. Much of this complexity arises during development through the interaction of two distinct neuronal types, glutamatergic projection neurons and GABAergic interneurons. Pyramidal cells constitute approximately 80% of the neurons in the cortex and they specialize in transmitting information between different cortical regions and to other regions of the brain. Interneurons comprise a highly heterogeneous group of neurons that primarily contribute to local assemblies, where they provide inhibitory inputs and they shape different forms of synchronized oscillations.

Prof. Marín largely concentrates his research on the analysis of the mechanisms controlling the migration, final allocation and connectivity of cortical interneurons, although he is also interested in understanding the general principles regulating the development of other classes of cortical neurons. This research may contribute to understanding the etiology of some of the most devastating psychiatric disorders, such as autism or schizophrenia.

Oscar Marín is Professor of Investigation CSIC at the Instituto de Neurociencias, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) & Universidad Miguel Hernández (UMH) Sant Joan d'Alacant, in Spain.

Prof. Marín trained at University of California, San Francisco, and has been the recipient of several awards and distinctions. In 2012 he was awarded of the prestigious FENS/EJN Young Investigator Award.