

01 June, 2006



A State Key Lab lecture was delivered by Professor Robert Desimone, Director of the MIT McGovern Institute for Brain Research

**“Visual attention and neural synchrony”
by
Dr. Robert Desimone
Director, McGovern Institute for Brain Research, MIT
Professor, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, MIT
Date and time: 4:30pm, Monday, 26 June, 2006**

Location: Convocation Room, Main Building, HKU

About the Speaker:

Dr. Robert Desimone is Director of the McGovern Institute for Brain Research and Professor in the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Department of MIT. For the past six years he has been Director of the National Institute of Mental Health Intramural Research Program, the largest mental health research center in the world. Dr. Desimone received his Ph.D. from Princeton University. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a recipient of numerous awards, including the Troland Prize of the National Academy of Sciences and the Golden Brain Award of the Minerva Foundation. Dr. Desimone serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of HKU's State Key Laboratory of Brain and Cognitive Sciences and on the Board of Reviewing Editors of Science.

Dr. Robert Desimone's research focuses on disorders of perception, attention, and memory that frequently accompany the major mental diseases. To understand the neural mechanisms of these mental processes, his lab is recording the activity of neurons in the extrastriate and prefrontal cortex of nonhuman primates engaged in tasks requiring visual discrimination, attention, learning and memory. He is the author of more than 160 research articles, including 14 in Nature or Science.

The McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT is one of the largest neuroscience centers in the world. It conducts interdisciplinary research that combines and extends the results of recent breakthroughs in three major, interrelated areas: systems and computational neuroscience, imaging and cognitive neuroscience, and genetic and cellular neuroscience. The McGovern Institute currently has 12 full-time world-class scientists, who publish dozens of research papers in top ranking scientific journals every year.