



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ALLEN INSTITUTE FOR BRAIN SCIENCE ANNOUNCES NEW DATA RELEASE ON ALLEN BRAIN ATLAS RESOURCES

*Data release includes updates to the Mouse Brain Connectivity Atlas, BrainSpan Atlas, Human Brain Atlas and Mouse Brain Atlas*

**SEATTLE, WASH. — December 20, 2013 —** The Allen Institute for Brain Science (<http://www.alleninstitute.org/>) recently announced major updates to the online public resources available through the Allen Brain Atlas data portal ([www.brain-map.org](http://www.brain-map.org)). The updates include feature enhancements and data additions to four different atlas resources: the Mouse Brain Connectivity Atlas, the BrainSpan Atlas of the Developing Human Brain, the Human Brain Atlas and the Mouse Brain Atlas. The tools and data are freely available for download and analysis to the entire global research community, constituting a key resource of high-quality neuroscience datasets.

Included in this data release are substantial updates to the most recent product from the Allen Institute for Brain Science: the Allen Mouse Brain Connectivity Atlas. This resource allows users to search and browse connections between the over a hundred million neurons that make up the mouse brain. Axonal projections have been mapped from ~230 anatomical regions and diverse neuronal populations defined by ~90 Cre driver lines. By collecting the data on a highly standardized platform that allows for quantification on a large scale, many datasets can be compiled and compared, leading to a uniquely comprehensive view of mouse brain neural connections.

“The quantification allows individuals to look at all the data at the same time, and ask more comprehensive questions than would be allowed by looking at a single experiment or a small number of datasets,” explains Lydia Ng, Director of Technology. “For example, by merging and visualizing multiple datasets you are able to explore the topological relationship between the source and target regions. And by turning all data on its head, you can create virtual retrograde experiments.”

With its friendly user interface and easy to use search and visualization tools, including an interactive display that offers thumbnails with links to 2-D and 3-D views of detailed anatomy and projection signals, the Allen Mouse Brain Connectivity Atlas has already become an integral source for neuroscientists around the globe, and has been cited in several publications.

The Allen Mouse Brain Connectivity Atlas was first released in November 2011, with periodic data releases to update the atlas. The Allen Brain Atlas resources have been regularly updated since their original publication in 2008. The next and final public data release will be on March 6, 2014.

#### **About the Allen Brain Atlas resources**

The Allen Brain Atlas resources, created by the Allen Institute for Brain Science as open online public resources, integrate large-scale, systematically generated gene expression and anatomic datasets, complete with powerful search and viewing tools. Each month, the Allen Brain Atlas resources receive approximately 50,000 visits from researchers worldwide. Regular updates and data releases put an increasing amount of

valuable data and powerful search and viewing tools in the hands of scientists and research organizations everywhere, thereby accelerating understanding of the brain and related disorders and diseases.

**About the Allen Institute for Brain Science**

The Allen Institute for Brain Science ([www.alleninstitute.org](http://www.alleninstitute.org)) is an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit medical research organization dedicated to accelerating the understanding of how the human brain works in health and disease. Using a big science approach, the Allen Institute generates useful public resources used by researchers and organizations around the globe, drives technological and analytical advances, and discovers fundamental brain properties through integration of experiments, modeling and theory. Launched in 2003 with a seed contribution from founder and philanthropist Paul G. Allen, the Allen Institute is supported by a diversity of government, foundation and private funds to enable its projects. Given the Institute's achievements, Mr. Allen committed an additional \$300 million in 2012 for the first four years of a ten-year plan to further propel and expand the Institute's scientific programs, bringing his total commitment to date to \$500 million. The Allen Institute's data and tools are publicly available online at [www.brain-map.org](http://www.brain-map.org).

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