ALLEN INSTITUTE FOR BRAIN SCIENCE PUBLISHES NEW DATA, EXPANDS OPEN ONLINE RESOURCES

SEATTLE, WASH. — June 13, 2013 — The Allen Institute for Brain Science announces its public data release today, expanding three online resources that advance global progress in neuroscience. The resources are hosted by the Allen Brain Atlas data portal, which offers the global research community a unique collection of high-quality neuroscience datasets and is publicly available at www.brain-map.org.

With this data release, three atlas resources—the Allen Mouse Brain Connectivity Atlas, Allen Developing Mouse Brain Atlas, and the Allen Mouse Brain Atlas—have been expanded with new data and additional features.

The Allen Mouse Brain Connectivity Atlas now offers more search and browse capabilities, as well as a visually stimulating interface to help navigate the database. An interactive display offers thumbnails with links to 2-D and 3-D views of detailed anatomy and projection signals, allowing scientists to explore individual neural connections in the mouse brain for free in a virtual environment. These data offer scientists a unique look at the microarchitecture of the mammalian brain, and comprise a critical resource for understanding how each of over a hundred million neurons is interconnected. The Atlas will help scientists identify the neural circuits governing behavior and other brain functions, examine how such circuits are formed in development, and advance understanding of a variety of disorders and diseases involving the brain. The Allen Mouse Brain Connectivity Atlas was first released in November 2011 and has been expanded regularly since that time; it now contains detailed projection mapping data from ~200 brain regions.

Another resource, the Allen Developing Mouse Brain Atlas has been significantly updated with new features. Since its first release in 2010 this Atlas has provided scientists a database of information to understand the changing patterns of gene expression throughout development. Today, the Atlas has been expanded with an updated reference atlas, offering an interactive platform to search brain anatomy at different stages of development. Further, the data release today adds new search functions that will allow researchers to more easily scan large quantities of data, as well as search for correlations in gene expression among different stages of development.

The Allen Mouse Brain Atlas, the Allen Institute’s flagship Atlas product which first appeared in 2004 has also been updated to include data from the Institute’s Sleep Study and Mouse Diversity Study. All of this data is now viewable in the Brain Explorer® software, a 3-D visualization tool that provides anatomical context for viewing gene expression throughout the brain.

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. The Allen Institute’s next public data release is scheduled for October 2013.
About the Allen Institute for Brain Science
The Allen Institute for Brain Science (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.

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