ALLEN INSTITUTE for BRAIN SCIENCE

CHRISTOF KOCH, PH.D., CHIEF SCIENTIST, MINDSCOPE PROGRAM

Christof Koch joined the Allen Institute for Brain Science as Chief Scientific Officer in 2011 and was President and Chief Scientist from 2015-2020. In 2020, he became Chief Scientist of the MindScope Program at the Allen Institute.

He received his baccalaureate from the Lycée Descartes in Rabat, Morocco, his M.S. in physics from the University of Tübingen in Germany and his Ph.D. from the Max-Planck-Institut für Biologische Kybernetik, Tübingen. Subsequently, he spent four years as a postdoctoral fellow in the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory and the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. From 1987 until 2013, he was a professor at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena, from his initial appointment as Assistant Professor, Division of Biology and Division of Engineering and Applied Sciences in 1986, to his final position as Lois and Victor Troendle Professor of Cognitive & Behavioral Biology.

Koch has published extensively, and his writings and interests integrate theoretical, computational and experimental neuroscience with philosophy and contemporary trends, in particular artificial intelligence. His latest book, *The Feeling of Life Itself – Why Consciousness is Everywhere But Can't be Computed*, was published by MIT Press in Autumn of 2019.

His previous book, *Consciousness: Confessions of a Romantic Reductionist*, blends science and memoir to explore topics in discovering the roots of consciousness. Stemming in part from a long-standing collaboration with the late Nobel Laureate Francis Crick, Koch authored the book, *The Quest for Consciousness: A Neurobiological Approach*. He also authored the technical books, *Biophysics of Computation: Information Processing in Single Neurons* and *Methods in Neuronal Modeling: From Ions to Networks*, and served as editor for several books on neural modeling and information processing. Koch's research addresses scientific questions using a widely multidisciplinary approach.

His research interests include elucidating the biophysical mechanisms underlying neural computation, understanding the mechanisms and purpose of visual attention, and uncovering the neural basis of consciousness and the subjective mind.