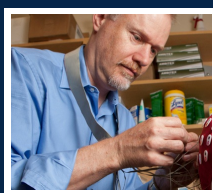


Optimizing the Brain



Steve Luck
Director, Center for Mind & Brain Professor, Department of Psychology

CURRENT RESEARCH

Combining basic and clinical science to improve quality of life

One of the biggest mysteries in all of science is how the mind--our experiences, thoughts, and feelings--arise from the big sack of chemicals that we call the brain. How can a set of physical chemical reactions and electrical signals give rise to our nonphysical conscious awareness? Dr. Steve Luck, of the University of California, Davis, seeks to understand the architecture of the human mind, and especially the attention mechanisms and memory systems that allow us to keep track of what we're supposed to be doing at a given moment, switch our attention when necessary, control our emotions, and store important information in memory. Through his research, Dr. Luck hopes to improve the quality of life for everyone by understanding the inner workings of the brain. Going beyond simply understanding the mind and brain, Dr. Luck and his team are helping to provide information about which brain systems should be targeted for new therapies and developing a new safe and painless method for electrical brain stimulation. Such research will improve the quality of life for everyone and lead to new therapies for conditions like anxiety, depression, attention deficit disorder, and schizophrenia.

Dr. Luck combines basic and clinical science, as well as neuroscience and psychology, in order to make sense of normal brain function and quickly use such knowledge to develop new methods for understanding and optimizing mental functions like attention and memory. This unusual combination of research--which seeks to understand both the "typical" brain and a broad range of psychological and neurological conditions--gives Dr. Luck and his team the ability to take the very latest concepts and methods from basic science and apply them to...

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AFFILIATION



University of California, Davis

EDUCATION

- B.A. in Psychology, 1986
Reed College
- Ph.D. in Neurosciences, 1993
University of California, San Diego

AWARDS

- Elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 2012
- Elected Fellow of the Society of Experimental Psychologists, 2010
- American Psychological Foundation F. J. McGuigan Young Investigator Prize, 2002
- Troland Award in Experimental Psychology, National Academy of Sciences, 2001
- APA Distinguished Scientific Award, 1998/1999

RESEARCH AREAS

Life Science, Neurological / Cognitive, Veteran's Causes, Neurological / Cognitive

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. Steve Luck, of the University of California, Davis as he works to understand and optimize the human brain. Funding will support the necessary \$50K required for each study, \$10K for brain stimulation costs, \$40K for recording electrical activity, and \$30K for an eye tracker. In choosing to support his research, you will play an important role in working towards unlocking the mysteries of the brain.