

The (IM)2 Newsletter

Every month the (IM)2 Newsletter brings you the latest and hottest scientific and administrative news about the (IM)2 NCCR and related topics

Dr José del R. Millán named Research Leader in Robotics on the 2004 "Scientific American 50"

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN'S PRESTIGIOUS ANNUAL LIST RECOGNIZES SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MANY FIELDS.

Dr. José del R. Millán, a Senior Researcher at the IDIAP Research Institute in Martigny, has been named by Scientific American magazine as a RESEARCH LEADER IN ROBOTICS within the 2004 Scientific American 50 - the magazine's prestigious annual list recognizing outstanding acts of leadership in science and technology from the past year.

The Scientific American 50 appears in the magazine's December issue, arriving on newsstands November 23. The complete list may also be accessed on the magazine's website at www.sciam.com. Scientific American 50 winners will be honored on November 16 at a celebration taking place at the New York Academy of Sciences in New York City.

Said Editor-In-Chief John Rennie: "Scientific American believes strongly that the best hope for a safer, healthier, more prosperous world rests in the enlightened use of technology. The Scientific American 50 is our annual opportunity to salute the people and organizations making that possible through their outstanding efforts as leaders of research, industry and policymaking".

Selected by the magazine's Board of Editors with the help of distinguished outside advisors, the Scientific American 50 spotlights a Research Leader of the Year, a Business Leader of the Year and a Policy Leader of the Year. The list also recognizes research, business and policy leaders in various technological categories including Agriculture, Chemicals and Materials, Communication, Computing, Energy, Environment, Medical Treatments and more.

Dr. José del R. Millán has been named Research Leader in robotics because of work over the last years in brain computer interfaces. Dr. José del R. Millán is a senior researcher at IDIAP exploring the use of physiological signals (brain waves in particular) for multimodal interaction. Previously, he has been a research scientist

at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in Italy for thirteen years, leading work on adaptive sensor-based systems. He has also been a Visiting Professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne and a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University. He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Barcelona) in 1992, where he was an assistant professor for three years.



Dr. Millán pioneered the design of reinforcement-learning autonomous robots, and his mobile robot TESEO was one of the first learning robots in the world. In 1996 he started to work on brain-computer interfaces. Dr. Millán led the project Adaptive Brain Interfaces (ABI), which was nominated as a finalist of the European Descartes Prize in 2001 for "outstanding research through transnational collaboration." The journal Science has reviewed his work arguing that he is one of the world's key researchers in the field of brain-computer interfaces, opening their article with a picture of his brain-actuated mobile robot—a stand-in for a smart wheelchair. This is the first demonstration that online analysis of EEG signals is sufficient for humans to continuously control a mobile robot navigating between rooms. His work has received wide media coverage around the world.

About Scientific American

Scientific American, founded in 1845, is the premier magazine of scientific discovery and technological innovation for the general public. Readers turn to it for a deep understanding of how science and technology can influence human affairs and illuminate the natural world. The magazine specializes in first-hand accounts by the people who actually do the work. In every issue, leading scientists, inventors and engineers from diverse fields describe their ideas and achievements. Over 100 Scientific American authors have won Nobel Prizes. Scientific American in English reaches more than three million people globally by subscription and on newsstands as well as on the Internet. Editions are also published in Italian, Japanese, Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Arabic, Greek, Polish, and Russian, providing timely coverage worldwide.

Events

SNSF Site Visit 18–19.11.04

The third annual Site Visit of the SNSF Review Panel will take place in Martigny on November 18 and 19, 2004.

EC–IST calls 4&5 25.11.04

An information event on IST calls 4&5 will take place in Geneva, organised by Euresearch and Unitec. Full details at www.unige.ch/unitec/euresearch/event-25nov2004.html

NIPS 2004 13–18.12.04

The 2004 Neural Information Processing Systems Conference, including workshops and tutorials, will take place in Vancouver and Whistler, Canada, from December 13 to 18.

SIAB meeting 10–11.2.05

Next year's International Scientific and Industrial Advisory Boards meeting will be held on February 10 and 11, 2005.

IDIAP, the Martigny based leading house of (IM)2, organised one of the key events of this year's Foire du Valais. Both the 10 days Foire and the IDIAP Forum on October 4 have been massive successes, the latter drawing hundreds of people.

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Forum de l'IDIAP @ Foire du Valais

The "Forum de l'IDIAP" organized as part of this year's "Foire du Valais", was a massive success, with hundreds of policymakers, students and industry leaders attending the presentations and demonstrations. The event has also benefited from a broad media coverage, both in the press and television.



The 6 demonstration booths illustrating IDIAP's activities in multimodal biometric user authentication, multimedia indexing and retrieval, microphone array speech processing, brain computer interfaces, low bit-rate speech coding, and the Spiderphone web enhanced teleconferencing system have been highly praised and saw a continuous flow of interested people.



Last but not least, the "First Tuesday" on "Networking to foster economic development", with Lise Cardinal, the famous Canadian advocate of networking, Hervé Bourlard, director of IDIAP and (IM)2, Jean-René Germanier, member of the Swiss Parliament, and Francis Sermet, general manager of the DEWS ended the day and proved that the Canton of Valais is well integrated in national and international networks. The presentations as well as the complete webcast are available online at www.rezonance.ch.

IDIAP and (IM)2 will again be involved in a public event in 2005, namely the nation-wide "Festival Sciences et Cité". More details about this event which will take place in late May will follow.

