

Ronald E. Hatcher Science on Saturday Lecture Series 17 February 2018

Looking Ahead A Split Second: How The Brain Learns Predictions In An Unpredictable World Sam Wang Princeton University

ABSTRACT:

From birth onward, the brain has to learn to make predictions in an unpredictable world. Many of these predictions are made possible by the cerebellum, a small structure that sits at the base of the brain. The cerebellum is essential for a wide range of abilities from motor coordination, to flexible and social behavior. It may account for why you can't tickle yourself. And if the cerebellum is disrupted in early life, it can result in autism. Come learn about this unusual and important brain structure.

BIOGRAPHY:

Sam Wang is a professor of neuroscience and molecular biology at Princeton University. He majored in physics at Caltech, received a PhD in neuroscience from Stanford, and moved to the East Coast to work at Duke University and Bell Labs. His research on the cerebellum, autism, and advanced methods for studying the brain are described at synapse.princeton.edu.