

The Geschwind Visiting Professorship was established by the Department of Neurology in memory of Norman Geschwind, M.D., the James Jackson Putnam Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School and Chairman of the Department from 1967, until his untimely death in 1984.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. V.S. Ramachandran as the **15th Norman Geschwind Visiting Professor in Behavioral Neurology**. Dr. Ramachandran received his M.D. degree from the University of Madras and then went to the University of Cambridge, where he received his Ph.D. from Trinity College in 1978. He then was a post-doctoral fellow with Dr. Jack Pettigrew at Cal Tech before joining the faculty of the University of California at San Diego, where he rapidly rose through the ranks to become a Professor in 1987, and Director of the Center for Brain and Cognition in 1996.

Dr. Ramachandran is best known for his work on sensory perception and its bearing on consciousness. His early work, including a series of papers in *Nature*, focused on stereopsis and binocular rivalry as well as color and motion perception, by using clever combinations of neuropsychology and psychophysics in human subjects. His studies on visual illusions allowed him to derive important principles of higher order visual processing in the human brain. In the 1990's, he began focusing on how the brain fills in gaps in perception. This work led him from the visual system to the phenomenon of phantom limb sensation, and plasticity of sensory systems, including the synesthesia, in which sensory experiences produce perceptions in different modalities, such as "hearing colors or tasting shapes." These studies into how the brain perceives its environment have led to insights into consciousness itself. In addition to authoring over 100 scientific publications, Dr. Ramachandran has also contributed to education of the general public on these issues, with several articles in *Scientific American* and books such as *Phantoms in the Brain* and *A Brief Tour of Human Consciousness*.

Dr. Ramachandran has received numerous awards for his work, including the Gold Medal from the Institute of Neurology in Madras, the Ramon y Cajal Award from the International Neuropsychiatry Society, the Ariens Cappers Award from the Royal Netherlands Institute of Science, and the Henry Dale medal by the Royal Society of London, as well as two honorary doctorates. He has given many named lectures, including a presidential special lecture and a Decade of the Brain lecture at the Society for Neuroscience, and was chosen by *Newsweek* magazine as one of the 100 most promising people to watch in the next century.

This Visiting Professorship is sponsored by the Department of Neurology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and the Ganz Memorial Fund.

THE 15TH ANNUAL

Norman Geschwind Memorial Lecture

Vilayanur Subramanian Ramachandran

Professor, Neurosciences Program & Department of Psychology
University of California at San Diego
Director, Center for Brain and Cognition
University of California at San Diego
Adjunct Professor of Biology,
Salk Institute, La Jolla, California

Wednesday, May 30, 2008

9:30 a.m.

Norman Geschwind Memorial Lecture

***"Reviving the Golden Age of Neurology;
Phantom Limbs, Body Image and Synesthesia"***

Harvard Institute of Medicine, Bray Room, 1st floor
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

10:30 a.m.

Reception

Harvard Institute of Medicine Conference Room, 8th Floor
BIDMC, East Campus

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch with Residents

Farr 11 Conference Room
BIDMC, West Campus

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Professor's Rounds Case Presentation

Kirstein Living Room
BIDMC, East Campus