

MICHAEL BRECHT



German neurobiologist

Michael Brecht developed techniques *in vivo* whole cell and their application, which allow the identification and analysis of nerve cells (neurons) and their activity in live animals.

CAREER

Michael Brecht was born in 1967 in Urach. From 1988, he studied biochemistry and biology in Tübingen. After finishing, he spent a one-year internship in San Diego in 1991-1992. In 1994 he had a research stay at the Keck Center for Integrative Neuroscience at the University of California, San Francisco. During his stay he completed his diploma work, concerning with rat vibrissal behaviors in collaboration with Bruno Preilowski and Michael Merzenich. In the same year he finished his diploma thesis at the University of Tübingen. In 1998, he received his PhD from the Max Planck Institute for Brain Research in Frankfurt, Germany.

After his PhD he joined Bert Sakmann's lab as a postdoc to do *in vivo* whole-cell recordings in rat barrel cortex. In 2004, he completed his habilitation at the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research in Heidelberg, Germany. In 2004, he obtained a position as assistant professor in the Department of Neuroscience at the Medical Center of the Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands. Since 2006, he has been at the Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience in Berlin and a professor at Humboldt University in Berlin.

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Since 2006, he has been at the Bernstein Center for Computational Neuroscience and Professor at Humboldt University of Berlin
- 2008 - ERC Advanced Investigators Grant - European Research Council
- 2012 - Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize from the German Research Foundation
- 2014 - Elected Member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO)