Imagining the Brain is a project that invites artists and scientists to take a deep look at the science of the brain and to communicate really complex scientific, ethical, philosophical and social issues using art.

Do I have to study both art and science to enter?
No, you have to have a keen interest in both, though.

How it works:
you produce a piece of artwork in any format on one of the two topics detailed below.

If it is possible to do a piece of work that fits in with the one of the topics and also with your art coursework, that is fine. We exhibit all entries in a public exhibition.

The artwork is judged by a panel of professional artists and scientists and prizes are awarded for 1st (£100), 2nd (£75)& 3rd (£50) place. One or more artists are chosen from among the winners to be an artist in residence in the lab over the summer.

The residency lasts for 3-4 weeks and involves you talking to the scientists in the neurobiology division at the Medical Research Council in Cambridge and finding out what projects we are currently working on. You will then produce artwork on the subjects that really inspire you. Your artwork will be used to communicate science to varied audiences all over the world. You will always be credited for your artwork.

I'm really interested!
Great – go to:

www.endocytosis.org/ImaginingTheBrain

for more information and entry forms.

But I'd like more information?
No problem – contact:

Yvonne Vallis at
ITB@mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk
or **07904 556135**

THINKING DIFFERENTLY: "GETTING ON YOUR NERVES" & "AUTISM"

IMAGINING THE BRAIN 2012

Details at :

www.endocytosis.org/ImaginingTheBrain

Autism

Autism spectrum conditions (ASCs) *are the term given to a wide spectrum of neurodevelopmental conditions, characterized by impairments in* ***three areas****:*

Communication / Social skills / Imagination

- *Affecting 1% of the population, these conditions can range from very mild to severe.*
- *ASCs are frequently associated with learning difficulties, epilepsy and savant skills – we have all heard of some people with amazing memories or maths skills who are also affected by ASCs.*

In this project, we will look in detail into this fascinating condition. We will look at the causes of ASCs. We will ask whether ASCs are really increasing in the population. We will ask why ASCs affect more males than females. We will ask what interventions can be offered to people with ASCs.

We will endeavor to understand a very different way of thinking.

Getting On Your Nerves

There are many different types of information exchange systems in the body, all of which have to communicate and integrate with each other.

The nervous system joins up all that we do. It receives inputs from not only from what we consciously perceive but from our general wellbeing, our metabolic status, our immune system, our sleep patterns etc. The brain outputs are not only motor, but cognitive, hormonal, etc and our brain constantly adapts to the information it receives.

There are many different types of nerve cells, whose shape is beautifully adapted to perform different tasks.

There are many different types of information exchange systems in the body, all of which have to communicate and integrate with each other.

There is a specialised nervous system that controls the intestine and crosstalk between this and the central and peripheral nervous system is now the subject of intense research interest in understanding feeding behaviours. There is considerable crosstalk between the immune system and the nervous system as well as many other links that ensure coordinated function.

These complex coordination is seen in every one of us, in a bird in flight, in a hibernating mammal. When it goes wrong, the consequences are devastating.

We look forward to getting on your nerves.