

UC SANTA BARBARA

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Gail Gallessich

GRANT TO STUDY INTERFACE BETWEEN BRAIN AND MACHINES AWARDED TO UCSB RESEARCHER

The working together of mind and machine, the stuff of science fiction, is being studied at two UC campuses, thanks to a new grant.

Ratneshwar Lal, associate research biologist in the Neuroscience Research Institute at UC Santa Barbara, and his collaborator Luke Lee from UC Berkeley have received \$318,649 in BioSTAR project funds to support the research. In addition, the biotech company Advance Biotechnology of Santa Barbara is contributing \$460,000.

BioSTAR is an entity set up to strengthen and expand California's economy through jointly sponsored industry-university research partnerships in the field of biotechnology. All 10 UC campuses participate.

The new project is called, "Brain Machine Interface: Microfabricated Cell Membrane Electrophysiological Recording Arrays."

According to Lal, "The objective of this project is to develop and implement a technology that will address the question of how interconnected brain cells communicate, and for interfacing with biocompatible nanodevices. With that information, the researchers will use the devices to communicate directly with brain tissue."

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.