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**Date:** July 20, 2006 5:11:30 PM EDT  
**To:** MIT Faculty  
**Subject:** Ad hoc committee announcement

Dear colleagues,

Over the course of several years, MIT has succeeded in recruiting and developing a remarkable group of neuroscientists, who now work and interact in a magnificent new facility. These successes attest to MIT's commitment to identifying and recruiting outstanding faculty. Nevertheless, the events surrounding a recent recruitment of a junior faculty member in the Biology Department and the McGovern Institute have highlighted tensions among MIT's neuroscience entities. At the President's request, I am convening an *ad hoc* committee to:

1. Review the overall structure of, and interactions among, MIT's neuroscience programs, including the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Department, the McGovern Institute for Brain Research, the Picower Institute for Learning and Memory, and the neuroscience activities within the Biology Department;
2. Look into the recent junior faculty recruitment process, and the faculty recruitment process in general, as a window on the interactions among the neuroscience entities at MIT; and
3. Consider how the climate for neuroscience research and the process of faculty appointments might be improved.

I am grateful to Dr. Torsten Wiesel and to Professors Jacqueline N. Hewitt (chair), Marc A. Kastner, Michael F. Rubner, and Sheila E. Widnall for their willingness to serve on this important committee.

L. Rafael Reif  
Provost