

Brief Bio of Prof. Pawan Sinha



Prof. Pawan Sinha is an associate professor of computational and visual neuroscience in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at MIT. He got his undergraduate degree in computer science from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and his Masters and doctoral degrees from the Department of Computer Science at MIT.

Using a combination of experimental and computational modeling techniques, research in Prof. Sinha's laboratory focuses on understanding how the human brain learns to recognize objects through visual experience and how objects are encoded in memory. Prof. Sinha's experimental work on these issues involves studying normal observers and also those with visual impairments. The latter group includes children with autism and also a unique population of children in India who have recovered sight following prolonged periods of congenital blindness. The goal is not only to derive clues regarding the nature and development of high-level visual skills, but also to create better rehabilitation routines to help children overcome visual impairments.

Prof. Sinha is a recipient of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellowship in Neuroscience, the John Merck Scholars Award for research on developmental disorders and the Jephtha and Emily Wade Award for creative research. He has published extensively in several of the world's top-ranked scientific journals including Nature, Science, Nature Neuroscience and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. His work has been profiled in several media channels including the New York Times, The Washington Post, ABC News, National Public Radio and TIME magazine. He serves on the editorial board of ACM's Journal of Applied Perception. He is a founder of Imagen Inc, a company that applies insights regarding human image processing to challenging real-world machine vision problems. Imagen was the winner of the prestigious MIT \$50K Entrepreneurship competition. Prof. Sinha was named a Global Indus Technovator, and was also inducted into the Guinness Book of World Records in 2003.