

# WHITAKER BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING INSTITUTE

## DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING FRIDAY SEMINAR SERIES

**Jeffrey D. Schall, PhD**

E. Bronson Ingram Professor of Neuroscience  
Director, Center for Integrative & Cognitive Neuroscience  
Director, Vanderbilt Vision Research Center  
Vanderbilt University

“Neural Selection and Control of Visual Guided Eye Movements”

DATE: May 6, 2005  
TIME: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
PLACE: **Traylor 709**  
Host: Ed Bartlett

Abstract: Recent research has provided new insights into the neural processes that select the target for and control the production of a shift of gaze. Being a key node in the network that subserves visual processing and saccade production, the frontal eye field has been an effective area in which to monitor these processes. Certain neurons in the frontal eye field signal the location of conspicuous or meaningful stimuli that may be the targets for saccades. Other neurons control whether and when gaze shifts. In contrast, neurons in the supplementary eye field and anterior cingulate cortex appear not to control directly movement initiation but instead signal the production of errors, the anticipation and delivery of reinforcement and the presence of processing conflict. These signals form the core of current models of supervisory control of sensorimotor processes. The existence of distinct neural processes for visual selection and saccade production is necessary to explain the flexibility of visually guided behavior.

**Any questions, contact 410-955-3132.**

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**JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY  
720 RUTLAND AVENUE, BALTIMORE, MD 21205**

For Disability Access Information  
Contact: Joyce Bankert: 410-955-3132: [jbankert@bme.jhu.edu](mailto:jbankert@bme.jhu.edu)