## Chasing true understanding of the brain: Why progress may be dependent on 'trial and error, and some luck'

Billions of dollars are flowing into research and neurotechnology projects like the <u>U.S. Brain Initiative</u>, <u>Europe's Human Brain Project</u>, and the <u>China Brain Project</u>. Neuroscientists recently revealed they <u>made mice hallucinate</u> by tweaking 20 of their neurons. Elon Musk says Neuralink, a company that he cofounded and has invested \$100 million in, is on the <u>verge of threading ultrafine wires</u> into people's heads to record from at least 1,000 brain cells, a step toward telepathic communication with computers.

And yet, while scientists might be able to hack into parts of the brain with greater and greater skill, without a comprehensive understanding of the entire organ — a true model of the brain, akin to the atomic models Bohr and his peers refined at that Copenhagen villa — will progress come incrementally, remaining dependent on trial and error, and some luck?

That's an urgent issue for a society plagued by costly and debilitating neurological and psychological diseases. It also challenges any claims that the human brain can be mastered, upgraded, and melded with machines, or maybe even <u>uploaded</u> to servers in an immortal cloud.

Read full, original post: Will It Ever Be Possible to Understand the Human Brain?