



# 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SWARTZ FOUNDATION MIND/BRAIN LECTURE

The Swartz Foundation

PROBING THE MYSTERIES OF THE MIND

## UNDERSTANDING THE RECOVERY OF CONSCIOUSNESS

### **Nicholas D. Schiff, M.D.**

Director, Laboratory of Cognitive Neuromodulation,  
Weill Cornell Medical College

**Monday, March 15, 2010**

**4:30 pm**

Staller Center for the Arts, Main Stage  
Stony Brook University



**D**espite major advances in neuroscience, recovery of consciousness after brain injury remains poorly understood. How does recovery happen and what can doctors do to help patients escape their imprisoned minds? At the origin of this challenge is the surprising degree of uncertainty of brain function that may be present when confronted with unresponsive patients. Dr. Nicholas Schiff will review studies that have expanded the understanding of the potential for late recovery of cognitive function and provide insight into possible biological mechanisms that may lead to the “circuit-level” recovery of consciousness. His talk will include examples of novel neuroimaging and the results of a central thalamic stimulation on a severely brain-injured patient.

**Nicholas Schiff** is a physician-scientist with expertise in neurological disorders of consciousness. In 2008, he was named to *TIME Magazine*'s “TIME 100” of the world's most influential people for opening a new frontier in deep brain stimulation when he and his team helped to “awaken” a brain-damaged man who had been in a minimally conscious state for six years.

**The Swartz Foundation** sponsors the Mind/Brain Lecture Series along with the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior and Stony Brook University. To learn more, visit [www.theswartzfoundation.org](http://www.theswartzfoundation.org)

For more details and to watch a video preview about this lecture, please visit  
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