I. Title: Neurons to Minds (NtoM)

II. Abstract:

The Neurons to Minds (NtoM) Cluster focuses on explaining the full cascade of events that lead from neuron-level processes to whole-brain networks and to human behavior. Worldwide, there are only very few institutions positioned to implement such an integrative vision—where neuroscientists on different levels truly work together. However, at the University of Oregon a very strong group of systems and cognitive neuroscientists with a proven track record of external funding are already engaged in collaborative projects. To fully realize the existing potential we propose hiring one senior-level researcher each in the area of systems neuroscience and cognitive neuroscience in Phase 1, with potential junior-level hires in Phase 2. The individuals targeted for these positions all provide critical knowledge and tools to foster cross-level integration, they would bring strong external funding, and they have expressed interest in Oregon. The NtoM cluster is an ideal fit with the vision and the existing infrastructure of the Lewis Integrated Science Building (LISB). It would bring usage of critical shared resources such as the Vivarium and the Lewis Center of Neuroimaging (both housed in LISB) towards full capacity and financial stability. Finally, it would not only move the needle forward in terms of critical performance parameters (publications and grant funding), it would also help fighting off a very real retention threat focused on key members of the proposed cluster.

III. Proposing Faculty

Name: Ulrich Mayr
Department: Psychology
Cluster Coordinator: Ed Awh
Department: Psychology

IV. College/Units Involved

Dean(s): Andrew Marcus
Department(s): Psychology (lead) and Biology

V. Number and Level of each New Position Proposed:

Phase 1: 2 Associate/Full Professor Positions
Phase 2: 2 Assistant Professor Positions

Working with Cluster of Excellence proposers and participating deans, central administration will refine specific hiring plans based on available facilities, funding and institutional support structures.