

# COLLÈGE DE FRANCE

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*Enseigner la recherche en train de se faire*

After a PhD thesis prepared at the Faculty of Sciences (Paris 7) and MIT on the structure of plant messenger RNAs, Alain Prochiantz developed a project on the regulation of neuronal polarity (College de France, Paris). Following a sabbatical year at NYU School of Medicine, he started a Research unit at Ecole Normale Supérieure (Paris). In this new environment, his laboratory studied the role of homeoproteins in the definition of neuronal shape. This led to the discovery that homeoproteins travel between cells. This novel signaling pathway has received experimental confirmation in several models including the establishment of the retino-tectal map and the regulation of the critical period for binocular vision. In addition to its fundamental aspects this work has opened the field of transduction peptides and led to several biotechnological biomedical developments. Alain Prochiantz is presently Professor at College de France and a member of French Academy of sciences

