This issue of Philosophical Transactions B, published during the journal’s 350 anniversary year, brings together eminent neuroscientists to consider the future of brain research and how it might develop over the coming quarter of a century. The papers reveal how the questions asked, and the methods used to address them, have been refined to unprecedented levels, giving us hope that the next 25 years will see continuing sophistication in the answers we obtain. The issue also highlights the programmes of the major initiatives in brain studies, in the United States, Japan and Europe, providing a must-read resource for all those interested in the future of brain studies.

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