



AMERICA 250

AI PIONEERS

BOSTON GLOBAL FORUM . AI WORLD SOCIETY

REMARKS HONORING

## Professor Robert Desimone

*America 250: AI Pioneers Award*

*Presented by*

**Nguyen Anh Tuan**

Co-Founder, Co-Chair & CEO, Boston Global Forum and AI World Society

**McGovern Institute for Brain Research, MIT**

*May 15, 2026*

Distinguished Professor Robert Desimone,

Distinguished scientists, scholars, and leaders,

Dear friends,

It is a profound honor to be here today at the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT — one of the world's great centers for understanding the human mind, the brain, and the foundations of intelligence.

On behalf of the Boston Global Forum and AIWS, I am deeply honored to present the America 250: AI Pioneers Award to Professor Robert Desimone.

As America approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding, we honor not only the achievements of the past, but also the pioneers who are shaping the future. The AI Age is not only a technological revolution. It is a civilizational transformation. It asks us to understand intelligence more deeply, to govern technology more wisely, and to ensure that artificial intelligence serves human dignity, freedom, creativity, and the common good.

***Professor Robert Desimone represents the highest spirit of this mission.***

As Director of the McGovern Institute for Brain Research and Doris and Don Berkey Professor in Brain and Cognitive Sciences at MIT, Professor Desimone has devoted his life to one of the most important scientific questions of our time: how the brain enables attention, perception, learning, and intelligent action.

His pioneering work has helped us understand how the human brain focuses on what matters, filters out distraction, and organizes perception in a complex world. This is not only a contribution to neuroscience. It is also a profound contribution to the future of AI.

In the AI Age, machines can process enormous volumes of information. But wisdom requires more than processing power. It requires attention. It requires meaning. It requires the ability to distinguish signal from noise, truth from manipulation, and what is important from what is merely loud.

Professor Desimone's work reminds us that intelligence begins not only with computation, but with attention — with the capacity to focus, to select, to understand, and to act responsibly.

This lesson is especially important today. We live in a world of information overload, algorithmic amplification, synthetic media, and constant digital distraction. Societies are struggling to preserve trust, clarity, and human judgment. In this environment, the science of attention is not only a scientific field. It is a foundation for civilization in the AI Age.

At the Boston Global Forum and AIWS, we believe that the future of AI must be guided by Trust Infrastructure — by standards, accountability, transparency, human-in-command principles, and systems that make trust measurable and verifiable.

But trust also depends on the deeper understanding of human intelligence. We must understand how people perceive, decide, remember, learn, and focus. We must understand how the brain works if we want to build AI that truly serves humanity.

That is why Professor Desimone's contributions are so important to the future of trustworthy AI.

His leadership at the McGovern Institute has advanced a vision of neuroscience that is rigorous, collaborative, and deeply human. His work connects brain research with the future of learning, health, cognition, and artificial intelligence. It reflects the spirit of MIT at its best: scientific excellence in service of humanity.

Professor Desimone has also been a valued member of the Boston Global Forum community and its Board of Thinkers. His wisdom has enriched our work on AI, society, governance, and the future of human-centered innovation.

Today, as we honor him with the America 250: AI Pioneers Award, we recognize not only a distinguished scientist, but a pioneer whose work helps illuminate one of the central questions of the AI Age:

*How can intelligence — human and artificial — be aligned with truth, trust, responsibility, and human flourishing?*

America at 250 is a moment to renew the best ideals of this nation: freedom, innovation, responsibility, and the belief that knowledge should serve humanity. Professor Desimone's life and work embody those ideals.

He has helped deepen our understanding of the brain.

He has helped build one of the world's great institutions for neuroscience.

He has helped open pathways between brain science and the future of AI.

And he has helped remind us that the highest purpose of science is to elevate human life.

Professor Desimone, with deep respect and admiration, the Boston Global Forum and AIWS are proud to honor you as an America 250: AI Pioneer.

May your work continue to inspire scientists, innovators, and leaders around the world to build an AI Age that is not only intelligent, but wise; not only powerful, but trustworthy; not only advanced, but deeply human.

**Congratulations, Professor Robert Desimone.**

*Thank you.*

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*America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age*