Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. The next trick will be figuring out how stem cells know where to go. Damaged tissue must send out long-range signals, McKay says, and researchers are already on the lookout for them.

–LAURA HELMUTH

MATERIALS SCIENCE

Armenia Wants Second Mideast Synchrotron

BERN, SWITZERLAND—You might call it a case of open SESAME: Middle Eastern scientists who for years have been yearning for a synchrotron may wind up with two.

SESAME (Synchrotron Radiation for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East) is an 11-nation consortium formed to install and operate a first-generation synchrotron now mothballed in Germany (*Science*, 25 June 1999, p. 2077). Last spring, SESAME selected Jordan as the site of the 0.8 giga-electron-volt (GeV) BESSY-I synchrotron, disappointing Armenian officials who had hoped to snare the prize. But their dejection didn't last long. This month Armenia moved to the head of the line for a second, brand-new synchrotron after securing a $15 million down payment from the U.S. Congress as part of a foreign-aid spending bill that would funnel $90 million to the country.

Armenia's latest strategy came as a surprise to SESAME, says Herwig Schopper, the former director-general of CERN, the European particle physics laboratory near Geneva, who heads SESAME's interim council, which met earlier this month in Yerevan, Armenia. The country's representatives say they hope to raise another $15 million from wealthy Armenian-Americans, as well as support from the Armenian government to operate the machine.

Schopper says the Armenian plan is feasible as long as enough money and users can be found for the synchrotrons, both of which would be managed by SESAME. Researchers may be attracted by its power (2 to 3 GeV), which would put it in a class with the new ANKA synchrotron in Karlsruhe, Germany. That's more powerful than Germany's BESSY instrument even after a planned upgrade (to fewer than 2 GeV). The Armenian instrument also might be more convenient for scientists in nations such as Pakistan or Iran.

SESAME has asked its oversight panels to canvass for users and provide advice for the Armenian proposal. The previously approved Jordan project, meanwhile, still needs to raise about $6 million to upgrade BESSY and $8 million or more to equip a site near Amman. Schopper expects key decisions on both projects to be made at the council's next meeting, scheduled for March in Cairo. "If we're fortunate, we'll get two instruments," says Schopper. "But we're confident we'll get at least one."

–ROBERT KOENIG

CREDITS: (TOP TO BOTTOM) PAUL SAKUMA/AP; BESSY

SESAME places. A Middle East consortium called SESAME hopes to run both Germany's old BESSY-I synchrotron (above) in Jordan and a second, more powerful machine in Armenia.

PHILANTHROPY

Moore Foundation Targets Science

Moore's Law now applies to philanthropy as well as computing power. Last week, computer industry titan Gordon Moore and his wife, Betty, announced that they are creating a $5-billion-plus foundation to support scientific research, conservation, and higher education. Once fully funded within a few years, the foundation is expected to rank among the dozen largest charities based in the United States.

Computer engineer Moore, the 70-year-old co-founder of processing-chip giant Intel Corp., is widely known for his observation that innovations were doubling computer processing power every 18 to 24 months. Moore's Law became a buzzword in the booming computer industry and helped to boost Moore's net worth to nearly $15 billion, mostly in Intel shares.

Now, the Moores want to share their new-economy wealth with researchers, university educators, and environmentalists. "Gordon is fairly passionate about looking for higher risk [research] projects that would not normally be funded by the National Science Foundation or the National Institutes of Health," says Lewis Coleman, who will become president of the San Francisco, California–based foundation early next year. He is currently chair of Banc of America Investment Services Inc.

High-tech donor. This Stanford laboratory is one of many gifts to science from Gordon Moore and his wife.

The charity's agenda will be shaped over the next year as Coleman hires dozens of staff members, recruits board members, and picks the brains of advisers. "We've just started to seek advice from the scientific community," he says. But basic and applied environmental studies and the physical sciences are among the "underserved" areas likely to benefit. Science "that would have an impact on protecting the environment [will be] an important, but not exclusive," focus of the foundation, he adds.

The Moores have already made an international mark in science philanthropy. They have given millions to the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California, $35 million for biodiversity protection to Conservation International, and $17 million to Cambridge University in the United Kingdom for a state-of-the-art physical sciences library and have built laboratories at Stanford University and the University of California (UC), Berkeley. Moore has also supported SETI, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, and a UC field research station on Moorea, a Pacific island next to Tahiti.

"Gordon Moore has impeccable taste and judgment when it comes to donating money—he could set the pace for other funders in a number of areas," says one former university administrator who has worked on securing gifts from the executive. "But it may be harder than he expects to find the niches where the foundation can make a clear-cut difference."

Still, Coleman is confident that the new Moore Foundation will have an impact. "We are open to joint ventures," he says, "and intrigued by [their] ability to bulk up and have influence on specific issues."

–DAVID MALAKOFF