THURSDAY MORNIN

Invited Address: Cognitive Reserve

Presenter: Ian Robertson

8:45–9:45 a.m.

I. ROBERTSON. Cognitive Reserve.
The gap between symptoms and pathology in many brain disorders has been explained by 'cognitive reserve' – a set of variables including education level which putatively allow the brain to adapt to damage by maintaining cognitive function. I propose here a hypothesis that repeated stimulation of the noradrenergic system over a lifetime mediates the effects of cognitive reserve on cognitive function. Noradrenaline has a key role in mediating the neuroprotective and neuroplasticity-affording effects of environmental enrichment on the brain and recent longitudinal evidence in aging strongly supports this hypothesis.
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