



Visiting Speaker

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Cerebral Consequences of Cerebellar Degeneration:
Functional and Structural MRI Studies in Friedreich
Ataxia

Friedreich ataxia (FRDA) is the most common inherited ataxia, characterised by progressive motor incoordination secondary to degeneration of the dentate nuclei of the cerebellum and dorsal spinal tracts. The cerebrum has traditionally been

considered to have a range of cerebello-cerebral projections in humans, giving rise to dentato-thalamo-cerebral white matter pathways and extensively innervating the cerebral cortex. In this talk, I will present a series of functional and diffusion MRI studies that examine cerebro-cerebellar function and connectivity in individuals with FRDA. The results of this work challenge traditional conceptions of isolated cerebellar deficits in FRDA, but indicate that the downstream functional consequences of cerebellar atrophy are not universally detrimental, and may also reflect compensatory processes in some contexts.

Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Time: 11:00 am

Location: Room 4190
Western Interdisciplinary