

Memory is Medicine: Spatial Behavior Intervention for the Frail in Hong Kong

Abstract

In this seminar, Professor Ge Lin Kan presents a behavioral intervention approach to slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease. Studies have shown that over half of Alzheimer's patients experience significant impairments in spatial memory and navigation, largely because the hippocampus is often the first region to be affected by the disease. Kevin Lynch, an urban theorist, speculated that elements of a city exist in the human brain at the cellular level, triggering studies of mental maps and spatial navigation in geography and neuropsychology. Based on the findings of place cells, direction cells, and border cells in both animal and human brains, Professor Kan has designed an integrated spatial navigation intervention for nursing home patients in Hong Kong to help them recognize familiar places in previously well-known environments. He will report some preliminary and promising results.