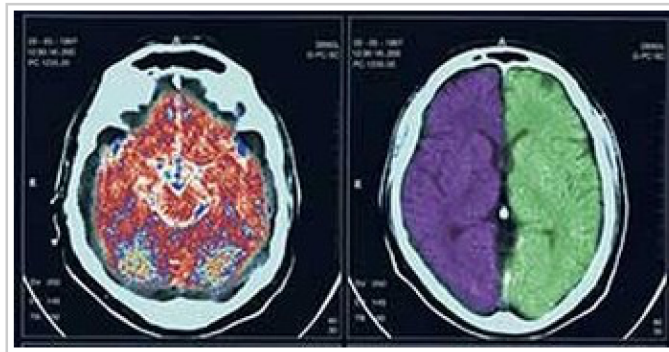


How the Physical Brain Reveals Individuality

02/09/2013

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No two people are completely alike. But, if everyone is different, how does the brain reflect that fact?



Science suggests that individual personality differences may be linked to variations in physical brain connections.

New research conducted at Massachusetts General Hospital, and soon to be published in the academic journal [Neuron](#), indicates that individual differences in personality and cognition may be linked to neurological variations prevalent in associative information connections between brain areas that are commonly attributed to self-control and attention-span.

In an effort to map brain regions, scientists observed fewer physical tissue differences prevalent in the brain's connective circuitry in the areas of the brain where there is more similarity among people. Knowing this may allow researchers to identify regions of the brain that are more likely to develop differently, which may in turn allow scientists to potentially come up with specific medical treatments for various neurological disorders.

Researchers also confirmed that these brain regions overlap areas of the brain that were found in previously published studies to reveal individual diversity in human behavior and cognition. The physical brain appears to



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diversity in human behavior and cognition. The physical brain appears to diverge in the areas of the brain that require higher level thought integration as opposed to the areas of the brain that process initial perceptual information intake. This may suggest that thought integration and personality are indeed higher level thought processes, while our initial human perceptual abilities such as the senses of sight, touch, taste, etc. are quite similar across humanity.

The study was conducted by Dr. Hesheng Liu and his colleagues at Mass. General who used an advanced examination technique for brain imaging known as resting-state functional magnetic resonance imaging. Here, twenty-three healthy individuals underwent observation five times over the course of a six month period.

Academic Journal Ref.:

S. Mueller, D. Wang, M. D. Fox, B.T. Thomas-Yeo, J. Sepulcre, M. R. Sabuncu, R. Shafee, J. Lu, H. Liu. "Individual Var. in Function Connectivity Architecture of the Brain." Neuron, '13; 77 (3): 586.

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