



THE PERRY & RUBY STEVENS

Parkinson's Disease

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

"What can aging tell us about neurodegeneration: common underlying processes driving age-related neurodegenerative diseases"

Presented by Julie K. Andersen, PhD

Abstract

The most predominant neurodegenerative disorders currently afflicting the world population are Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. Most studies to date have concentrated on how these diseases differ. This "isolationist" approach has yielded few, if any, effective treatments for either disease. Aging is the major risk factor for both. The aging process itself is associated with cellular changes in the brain that likely drive functional deficits in cognition and motor movement. We believe that focusing on what these disorders have in common — the aging brain — will open up novel avenues for disease prevention, amelioration, and cures.