Cognitive and Neural Moderators of Longitudinal Decline in Frontotemporal Degeneration

Research: Frontotemporal degeneration (FTD) is a common cause of young-onset neurodegenerative disease and life expectancy is approximately 7 years, but this is highly variable. Recent studies have demonstrated the moderating effects of lifestyle and genetic factors on the clinical course of FTD. Neuroanatomic factors may also play a role in neural implementation of compensatory function, such as supporting alternate brain networks for optimal performance. The overall research aim of this proposal is to better understand the moderating effects of lifestyle and biologic factors on longitudinal decline in young-onset dementia, and an account of the mechanisms by which this occurs. This knowledge is crucial for the design of cognitive interventions that take advantage of compensatory mechanisms to enhance cognitive function and slow decline in neurodegenerative disease.