## Perinatal Neuroscience

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## Speaker Disclosure

Under ACCME guidelines:

- a) I have a financial affiliation with AMEDA : Speakers Bureau
- b) My wife markets educational materials and shirts related to the talk content Kangaroo Mother Care Promotions

#### <u>Overview</u>

Perinatal neuroscience brain development Normal newborn behaviour

Separation effects physiology of crying

Defining the original paradigm Perinatal Neuroscience

## **NEUROSCIENCE**

90% of what we know about the brain has been discovered in the last 15 years

> Society of Neuroscience estimate Dr Sandra Witelson, McMaster

#### FETAL BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

The first 10 - 14 weeks, fetal brain growth is determined by genes (the DNA)

Thereafter, brain growth is an active process.

## FETAL BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Neuron = chief actor

Neurons push out a tree of connections (dendrification)

The also migrate ...



"Cells which FIRE TOGETHER, WIRE TOGETHER, and those which don't, won't." Carla Shatz

#### SECOND COMMANDMENT OF NEUROSCIENCE

USE IT, OR LOSE IT

## Neuronal Plasticity

 programmed cell death or apoptosis

 pruning and elimination of redundancy



#### EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Gestational age 20w all structures completed

> parallel development of structure & function

> > (Hugo Lagercrantz 2004)

Brain growth depends on experiences !! 23w fetus is aware / conscious parallel development of structure & function

Neurobehaviour and neurodevelopment

are inseparable a single integrated whole. 23w fetus is aware / conscious parallel development of structure & function

FUNCTION and STRUCTURE Neurobehaviour and neurodevelopment

> are inseparable a single integrated whole



#### EARLY DEVELOPMENT

"The brain is not a computer, it is a jungle."

100 billion neurons x 20000 synapses .....

"The perinatal sensorium is never in chaos ....

> ... the infant's world is structured, competent and organized, developing in an ever ordered, yet ever more complex and more flexible field of perception" *(Laughlin)*









## FETAL BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

At birth, the human being has more synapses in its brain than at any other stage of life.

## SYNAPSE DEVELOPMENT

Development is a process of "pruning" some, and developing other synapses - creating "neural pathways".



## STIMULATION

In utero: from 8w ? ...  $\rightarrow$  20 weeks

## <u>Sensory experience</u> ...

auditory, olfactory, contact, position MUTED: visual, other sensory

<u>...fires and wires brain</u>

... the activity occurring during **neonatal REM sleep** (or active sleep) seems to be **particularly important** to the developing organism

(spontaneous synchronous firing) Marks et al 1995

## deprivation of REM sleep

early in life can result in behavioral problems, permanent sleep disruption,

## decreased brain mass

more neuronal cell death.

Marks et al 1995

## ACTIVE SLEEP: REM

'an active brain in an inactive body' rapid eye movements lateral plane muscle atonia EEG low voltage mixed frequency visual cortex active awake (dreaming) suspended thermoregulation ANS irregularities

## QUIET SLEEP: NREM-4

'an inactive brain in an active body'

#### NREM Phase 4

deepest sleep EEG high amplitude synchronised delta waves

10 - 15% of total sleep



#### FETAL BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Development is a process of "pruning" some, and developing other synapses - creating "neural pathways".

## R Shore

## Critical period concept :

"Windows of opportunity in early life when a child's brain is exquisitely primed to receive sensory input in order to develop more advanced neural systems."

"brain is <u>exquisitely susceptible</u> to adverse factors" at particular times or stages

#### Schore

Critical period :

"Early interpersonal events positively <u>and negatively</u> impact the structural organisation of the brain."

#### AT BIRTH,

the brain has TWO CRITICAL SENSORY NEEDS:

> SMELL CONTACT

connect direct to the amygdala

#### THE NEWBORN BRAIN

#### SKIN-TO-SKIN CONTACT

fires and wires the anygdalaprefrontoorbital cortical pathway

#### THE NEWBORN BRAIN

... which is the first and essential first part of an efficiently regulated and organised right brain



Amodio 2008

## Schore

In early postnatal life, maintenance of critical levels of tactile input ... is important for normal brain maturation.

Areas of the amygdala .... are in a critical period of maturation, ... in the first two months of life

#### FETAL BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

The fetus has well developed sensations for touch and position (tactile and kinesthestic sensations).

"The infant actively seeks to adhere to as much skin surface on the mother's body as possible" (Harlow 1958, from Schore 2001)

## NEWBORN DEVELOPMENT

skin-to-skin contact Tactile stimulations build the amygdala - preorbital cortical tract during the first 8 weeks

The next pathway requires eye-to-eye contact

This is the basis of healthy right brain development!

#### NEWBORN DEVELOPMENT

<u>Tactile stimulations</u> facilitate "the flow of <u>affective information</u> from the infant ... to the mother" "the <u>language of</u> mother and infant consists of signals produced by the <u>autonomic nervous system</u> of both parties".

This is the basis of healthy development!

## **Myron Hofer**

... the private realm of sensory stimulation constructed by the mother and infant from numberless exchanges of subtle clues.

(Gallagher 1992)

#### Through

"hidden maternal regulators" ...

a mother precisely controls every element of her infant's physiology,

from its heart rate to its release of hormones from its appetite to the intensity of its activity

(Gallagher 1992)

#### ATTACHMENT - REGULATION

the objective is to achieve the ability to establish:

'STABILITY THROUGH CHANGE'

The foundation for INFANT MENTAL HEALTH



#### The First Idea

"It is necessary for a child to be engaged in a series of affective (emotional) interactions that give rise to the development of motor sensory and social capacities, which, when combined with symbol formation, lead to language.

Greenspan & Shanker 2006, p39

#### The First Idea (p39)

"The symbolic use of language, in turn, creates the foundation for more advanced social and intellectual capacities, including higher and higher levels of reflective thinking.

Greenspan & Shanker 2006, p39





### **ATTACHMENT - REGULATION**

the objective is to achieve the ability to establish an efficiently regulated right brain:

'STABILITY THROUGH CHANGE

The foundation for INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

Schore 2001a

#### The First Idea

"the <u>capacity to create</u> symbols and to think <u>stems from</u> what was thought of by philosophers as the 'enemy' of reason and logic:

our passions and emotions."

Greenspan & Shanker 2006

The First Idea

... these "uniquely human abilities" <u>are learned</u>; not passed on genetically or through natural selection.

Greenspan & Shanker 2006





BUT:

there is a gene for breastfeeding to improve intelligence !!! Caspi 2007







## WELL-BEING created defined



#### CONCEPTUAL HIERARCHIES

ATTACHMENT scaffold for					
abstraction	INTELLIGENCE	INTEGRATION			
speech 📃	SOCIALISATION	RELATIONSHIP			
emotional	REGULATION	BEHAVIOUR			
autonomic	HOMEOSTASIS	FUNCTION			
brainstem	PHYSIOLOGY	STRUCTURE			

#### HIERARCHY OF LANGUAGES

## Neuronal Plasticity "the first three years are decisive"

The cortex retains some plasticity throughout life ...

But limbic system and the midbrain are fixed after the age of three years

## Neuronal Plasticity "the first three years are decisive"

→ platform for subsequent development of higher cognitive functions.



Hofer discovered that what seems to be a single physical function, such as grooming or nursing, is actually a kind of umbrella that covers stimuli of touch, balance, smell, hearing and vision, each with a specific effect on the infant.

(Gallagher 1992)

## a kind of invisible hothouse

"the wiring of the brain's pathways is best supported when it can integrate quality sensory input through several pathways at once, particularly during critical periods of development." (McCain 1999)

"... creates a kind of <u>invisible hothouse</u> in which the infant's development can unfold."

(Hofer in Gallagher 1992)

## The brain is a

SENSORY ORGAN BREAST - FEEDING = BRAIN - WIRING SOCIAL ORGAN



"The brain is designed to be sculpted into its final configuration by the effects of early experiences"

These experiences are embedded in the attachment relationship.









Clinics in Perinatology, June 2004, Vol 31(2) page 210 Stanley Graven Early neurosensory visual development of fetus and newborn.

"It is a serious mistake to assume that the principles derived from careful animal studies do not apply to human infants. The risk of suppression or disruption of needed neural processes ... is very significant and potentially lasts a life time. All mammals have set sequence of behaviours at birth .....



After birth, events are determined ... ... by the neonate stimulating the mother! (Rosenblatt 1994)

Breast-feeding is "established through a set of mutual, complex sensory stimulations in mother and child."

(Kjellmer & Winberg 1994)

## HABITAT DETERMINES BEHAVIOUR

BEHAVIOUR ENSURES BIOLOGICAL NEEDS Warming, feeding and protection behaviours are intricately, inseparably linked to the right place. (Alberts 1994)

= NUTRITION PROGRAMME

In all mammals .....

.... the newborn is responsible for initiating breastfeeding,

not the mother !!

EXCEPT IN HUMAN ???

#### Sequence human newborn breast-feeding

Pre-requisite = habitat hand to mouth tongue moves mouth moves eye focuses nipple crawls to nipple latches to nipple suckles

(Widstrom et al 1994)

"The newborn may appear helpless, but displays an impressive and purposeful motor activity which, without maternal assistance, brings the baby to the nipple.

(Michelson et al 1996)

"The newborn may appear helpless, but

> raises its own temperature, has a higher blood glucose, metabolic adaptation faster.

(Widstrom 1987)

Warming, feeding and protection behaviours are intricately, inseparably linked to the right place. (Alberts 1994)

"The perinatal sensorium is never in chaos DEVELOPMENT IS →				
	EVER M	ORE ORDERED		
	1 <sup>st</sup> 28w	unmyelinated immobilise		
COMPETENT	2 <sup>nd</sup> 2 m	sympathetic	MORE APLEX	
COMPETENT	3 <sup>rd</sup> 6 m	myelinated vagus engage/disengage	<b></b> >	
ALWAY5!	MORE FLEXIBLE			

#### R Shore

## Critical period concept :

"Windows of opportunity in early life when a child's brain is exquisitely primed to receive sensory input in order to develop more advanced neural systems."

Success depends on a good start !!!

## BIRTH SKIN-TO-SKIN CONTACT PLACE DEPENDENT COMPETENCE

The first hours after birth are a CRITICAL PERIOD

mutual

psycho-physiological caregivers

BIRTH SKIN-TO-SKIN CONTACT CRITICAL PERIOD BEHAVIOUR Clinics in Perinatology, June 2004, Vol 31(2) page 210 Stanley Graven Early neurosensory visual development of fetus and newborn.

"It is a serious mistake to assume that the principles derived from careful animal studies do not apply to human infants. The risk of suppression or disruption of needed neural processes ... is very significant and potentially lasts a life time.

## Target #1 for 2005:

Report that 65% of infants are placed and remain in

#### direct skin to skin contact

with their mothers for at least one hour during the first 3 hours after birth.

PSN envisions a community that embraces its mothers and babies, and

## values the unique

## opportunity at birth

to impact the physical and emotional well-being of the newborn.



# ATTACHMENT REGULATION WELL-BEING





## KANGAROO MOTHER CARE A mother and baby <u>DYAD</u> are a single psychobiological organism

Clinics in Perinatology, June 2004, Vol 31(2) p293 Joy Browne "Early relationship environments: physiology of skin-to-skin contact for parents and their preterm infants"

The mother and infant at birth are ready to develop optimal attachment relationships and to work together toward organised cognitive, social and emotional development. Joy Browne 2004 Clinics in Perinatology, June 2004, Vol 31(2) p293 Robert White "Mothers' arms – the past and future locus of neonatal care ?"

... the baby must spend most of its time in its mothers arms to get the full benefit of her sensory environment as experienced throughout our evolution"







SEPARATION is LIFE THREATENING (WRONG PLACE) Universal response to separation (wrong habitat):

protest ... intense activity, trying to find the habitat ... Universal response to separation (wrong habitat):

## - despair response ....

...when separation is prolonged ... ...system shuts down for prolonged survival SEPARATION IS LIFE THREATENING (WRONG PLACE)

## "PROTEST" is <u>NOT</u> harmful

to the brain !!! <u>unless</u> it is prolonged or repetitive / frequent: "allostatic load" Required to develop RESILIENCE

"DESPAIR" does HARM

## 'structural organisation of the brain."

(Kanitz 2004) Consequences of repeated early isolation in domestic piglets on their behavioural neuroendocrine and immunological responses

Piglets in optimal rearing conditions 90 (versus 89 controls)

#### (Kanitz 2004)

Days 3 to 11 separated for 2 hours then back "apaque plastic box, straw of floor, same temperature & humidity as pen" Days 12 and 56 weight behavior immune parameters hormonal parameters brain parameters

Decreased weight gain (218 vs 244 g/d) Decreased activity (despair-depression) Higher plasma basal ACTH and cortisol Suppression of immune function Increased glucocorticoid receptors Higher interleukin conc' in limbic area CRH activation in hypothalamus and amygdala

## "structural organisation of the brain."

(Ziabreva 2003) South American small rodent

"Separation-Induced Receptor Changes in the Hippocampus and Amygdala of Octodn degus: Influence of maternal vocalisations" South American small rodent

separated for <u>6 minutes only</u> twice daily from d8 to d10

→ altered aminergic function in hippocampus and amygdala
→ (modulated by mother's voice)

Scientific Committee 2002 European Primate Society report to EU

The welfare on non-human primates used in research: Report of the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal welfare

#### Social deprivation alters neurobiological systems.

This pathology ... cannot be cured ... Scientific Committee 2002

## PROTEST - DESPAIR

1.4.1. Separation of infant

The impact of separation from the mother is quite profound in the infinit primate and is well-documented in infinit macaques. They typically display a biphasic response characterised by an initial stage ('protest') of hyperactivity associated with distress vocalisations, followed by a depressive stage ('despoir') featured by social withdrawal, a decrease in play, and the development of a typical slowched posture (Mineka and Suomi, 1978; Capitunio, 1986). This is accompanied by physiological distarbances in the regulation of heart rate, body temperature, sleep



#### 3-day separation:

induces physiological changes (immune,system, heart rate, sleep, cortisol, loss of body temperature..

anaclitic depression: •hyperactivity •conservation- withdrawal; •death or recovery

Slide & photo from James McKenna

## NO separation 6 months

According to the guidelines of the IPS (1993 a,b), young individuals should not be separated from their mothers at an early age (i.e. less than 6 months). They should remain in contact for one year to 18 months in monkeys like macaques, baboons and capuchins. The guidelines of the Primate Vaccine Evaluation Network also state that infants should not be weaned before 6 months and recommend separation at 12 months old (Poole and Thomas, 1995).

Continued contact 18 m

#### Maternal

behavior among primates extends throughout an extremely long infant and juvenile period, with prolonged periods of physical contact.

(Orangutan)

from McKenna

## SEPARATION is LIFE THREATENING (WRONG PLACE)

## SEPARATION !!! THE "PRIMARY

VIOLATION"

worst thing ... to any newborn according to biologists is SEPARATION.



Protest - despair

is also called

HYPERAROUSAL -DISSOCIATION

## HYPERAROUSAL - (Schore 2001)

hypermetabolic state

sympathetic system activated, increasing HR, BP, tone, vigilance,

distress is expressed first in crying ... then screaming, then <u>"fear-terror"</u>

## DISSOCIATION (Schore 2001)

## hypometabolic state

later forming <u>parasympathetic</u>, state of "conservation-withdrawal" in which individual disengages the brain "to conserve energies" ... "foster survival by the risky posture of feigning death".

## HYPERAROUSAL -DISSOCIATION (Schore 2001)

"in this state both sympathetic and parasympathetic components are hyperactivated ... Creating

... chaotic biochemical alterations

... a toxic neurochemistry in the developing brain

HYPERAROUSAL -DISSOCIATION (Schore 2001)

"in the developing brain, states organize neural systems, resulting in enduring traits."

CELLS THAT FIRE, WIRE

#### Schore

## Critical period concept :

"brain is <u>exquisitely susceptible</u> to adverse factors" at particular times or stages

#### Schore

Critical period :

"Early interpersonal events positively <u>and negatively</u> impact the

structural organisation of the brain."

#### Contemporary neuroscience ...

currently exploring early beginnings of adult brain pathology ...

... alterations in the functional organisation of the human brain ... ... correlated with the absence of early learning experiences.

#### Contemporary neuroscience

"social stressors are far more detrimental than nonsocial aversive stimuli"

"infant's immature brain exquisitely vulnerable to early adverse experiences, including adverse social experiences."

## HYPERAROUSAL -DISSOCIATION (Schore 2001)

"early adverse experiences result in an increased sensitivity to the effects of stress later in life, and render an individual vulnerable to stress related psychiatric disorders."

## SEPARATION IS HARMFUL

"Origins of many behavioural deviations are unknown child neglect, abuse. abnormal shyness, attention deficiencies. hyperactivity, colic, sleep disorders etc,

## SEPARATION IS HARMFUL

"Origins of many behavioural deviations are unknown ....

... can some be traced back to violations of an

innate agenda?"

Kiellmer & Winberg 1994

## SENSORY STIMULATION **EMOTIONAL EXCHANGES**

The First Idea: Authors have based their work partly on study of AUTISM

> The First Idea: How Symbols, Language, and Intelligence Evolved from our Primate Ancestors to Modern Humans Stanley I. Greenspan & Stuart G. Shanker

#### SEPARATION IS HARMFUL

"Early separation can produce major shifts in susceptibility to stress-induced pathology" (Hofer 1994)

(Maladaptive pathways have formed...

#### SEPARATION IS HARMFUL

"Early separation can produce major shifts in susceptibility to stress-induced pathology" (Hofer 1994)

> Syndrome X BARKER HYPOTHESIS Obesity Diabetes Hypertension

## The Fetal Matrix:

## PREDICTIVE ADAPTIVE RESPONSES (PARs)

Gluckman & Hanson 2005

## The Fetal Matrix:

Genome Genotype	species			
E		ted on bonds )		
	monment (expec	rea or harsh j		
	Adaptation -	homeostasis		
→ Prediction				
	(fetal programming)			
Prediction = environment				
	Expected	<u>Harsh</u>		
Phenotype A	healthy	dis-ease		
Phenotype B	dis-ease	healthy		
Gluckman & Ha	nson 2005			

#### Schore / Bergman

"developmental psychoneurobiological model"

Poor adult mental health	$\rightarrow$ from
Poor infant mental health	$\rightarrow$ from
Poor right brain regulation	$\rightarrow$ from
POOR ATTACHMENT	→ from
lack of skin-to-skin contact	→ from
SEPARATION	

## SEPARATION = CURRENT ROUTINE !!

## HYPERAROUSAL -DISSOCIATION (Schore 2001) TH

"in this state both sympathetic and parasympathetic components are hyperactivated ... Creating

... chaotic biochemical alterations

... a toxic neurochemistry in the developing brain





to any newborn according to biologists is SEPARATION.

SEPARATION !!!

Mother and offspring live in a biological state that has much in common with addiction. When they are parted the infant does not just miss its mother; it experiences a physical and psychological withdrawal from a host of her sensory stimuli, not unlike the plight of a heroin addict who goes cold turkey.

(Gallagher 1992)

## Separation tolerance in mammals is measured in minutes

## Separation tolerance in HUMANS is

NOT measured

PUBMED (National Library of medicine) Search "separation tolerance"

#### QUOTED PHRASE NOT FOUND

Googlewhack: Your search – **"neonatal separation tolerance"** did not match any documents.

## **Jacksonian Dissolution**

The more threatened the individual, the more 'primitive' (or regressed) becomes the style of thinking and behaving.

Perry 1995

#### Perry: Responses to threat

Adaptative Response	REST (Adult Male)	VIGILANCE	FREEZE	FLIGHT	FIGHT
Hyperarousa I Continuum	REST (Male Child)	VIGILANCE (Crying)	RESISTANCE Freeze	DEFIANCE 'Posturing'	AGGRESSION
Dissociative Continuum	REST (Female Child)	AVOIDANCE (Crying)	COMPLIANCE Freeze	DISSOCIATION 'Numbing'	FAINTING 'Mini- psychosis'
PRIMARY secondary Brain Areas	NEOCORTEX Subcortex	SUBCORTEX Limbic	LIMBIC Midbrain	MIDBRAIN Brainstem	BRAINSTEM Autonomic
Cognition	ABSTRACT	CONCRETE	'EMOTIONAL'	REACTIVE	REFLEXIVE
Mental State	CALM	AROUSAL	FEAR	TERROR	

## Schore:

"Infant trauma will interfere with critical period limbic organisation ...

future capacity to adapt ... correlated with maladaptive adult mental health"

## Schore:

"long term alterations brain function

"risk for developing severe psychopathologies at later stages of life."

















Grunau et al, Pain 2005; 113(3): 293-300 Neonatal procedural pain exposure predicts lower cortisol and behavioural reactivity in preterm infants in the NICU.

... prolonged and repeated neonatal stress ... and pain exposure .... may alter self-regulation in multiple systems ... ... changes may underlie long term ...difficulties in this population. Page, J o Perinatal Education 2004; 13(3): 10-17 Are there long-term consequences of pain in newborn or very young infants?

Youngest preterm neonates undergo 750 procedures during their hospital stay

less than 10% get opiates

Growing evidence shows that early pain experiences in newborn infants may have long-term consequences ... ... only minimally monitored







## IN THE PAST, WE BELIEVED BRAIN DEVELOPMENT :

- 1. genetically determined
- 2. linear development
- 3. acitivity increased with age
- 4. Mother good but not essential
- 5. deficits correctable later

(Rima Shore 1997)

## **NEUROSCIENCE**

90% of what we know about the brain has been discovered in the last 15 years

> Society of Neuroscience estimate Dr Sandra Witelson, McMaster

## IN THE PAST, WE BELIEVED BRAIN DEVELOPMENT :

- 1. genetically determined
- 2. linear development
- 3. acitivity increased with age
- 4. Mother good but not essential
- 5. deficits correctable later
  - = FALSE ASSUMPTION !!

## IN THE PAST, WE BELIEVED BRAIN DEVELOPMENT :

genetically determined
 linear development
 acitivity increases
 Mother not essential
 deficits correctable

EXPERIENCE CRITICAL periods MAX 3 years MOTHER WIRES FIXED 3 years MPTION !! "Current neuroscience and recent research have -disproved the assumptions, -destroyed the platform, on which modern neonatal care has been built."

N Bergman 2006

## THE CURRENT "BELIEF SYSTEM"

## SEPARATES MOTHERS & BABIES

# SEPARATION

THE INNATE AGENDA OF MOTHER AND NEWBORN

For the human newborn, it is the habitat which determines which brain programme is operating, which then determines the behaviour (niche).

## MATERNAL DEPENDENCE











# SEPARATION

THE INNATE AGENDA OF MOTHER AND NEWBORN



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Get both videos together on one DVD, plus a CD with extras ....

