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Media Release

22nd Steven Karger Prize Awarded to University of Basel Researcher for Work on Age Differences in Decision- Making

The award went to Dr. Loreen Tisdall for her publication “Age differences in the neural basis of decision-making under uncertainty.”

The 22nd Steven Karger Prize was awarded on November 29, 2024 by the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Basel during its annual dies academicus ceremony that celebrates the University’s founding in 1460. **Dr. Loreen Tisdall** received the award for her publication “Age differences in the neural basis of decision-making under uncertainty” in the scientific journal *Cognitive, Affective & Behavioral Neuroscience*.

Loreen Tisdall's research provides valuable insights into our ability to make sound decisions under uncertainty by examining the neural mechanisms underlying decision-making in different age groups and in different situations of uncertainty. In particular, Tisdall used functional neuroimaging to examine how 175 individuals aged 16 to 81 make decisions that involve risk and temporal tradeoffs. The study used two different behavioral paradigms to examine age-related differences in brain activation during the decision-making process as a function of different task characteristics. Comprehensive analysis revealed significant age differences in the activation of key brain regions such as the nucleus accumbens, anterior insula, and medial prefrontal cortex during the processing and integration of decision gains and losses.

The results indicate that older adults may exhibit reduced neural responses in key areas associated with information integration, but not consistently across tasks or situations. Her work highlights the importance of considering the role of task characteristics when accounting for age differences in decision making under uncertainty. Overall, the study's methodology and robust analytical approach significantly advance our understanding of how aging affects decision-making processes by influencing information integration across different decision situations.

“This award recognizes Dr. Tisdall’s outstanding contribution to understanding the diverse ways aging affects decision-making. Her work challenges the idea of a uniform pattern of decline, emphasizing the importance of understanding the situations that contribute to age differences in choice,” says **Prof. Dr. Rui Mata, Dean of Research for the Faculty of Psychology, University of Basel.**

“The Steven Karger Award has been celebrating researchers’ achievements since 2008. In honor of the memory of my brother, the late CEO Steven Karger, we celebrate Dr. Tisdall’s outstanding findings that have provided valuable insights into the increasingly aging population,” states **Gabriella Karger, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors at Karger Publishers.** Karger Publishers publishes several scientific journals and book series in the fields of psychology.

To discover more, watch the [interview](#) with Loreen Tisdall.

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