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Editorial

The Heart-Brain Connection Begets Cardiovascular Psychiatry and Neurology

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In many Asian languages, the same ancient letter/symbol is used for both heart and mind. This is not surprising, as physicians and scientists across different civilizations have positively argued that the site of intelligence and emotions is in one of the two. This paper reviews the historical and modern approach in modern biology/physiology and behavioral science: anatomical and functional links between the brain and the heart. A better understanding of these links will advance our health and improve disease treatment.

Modern medicine is characterized by a high degree of specialization. In the field of medicine, a particular medical specialty is considered from the point of view of a particular medical specialty. In the field of psychiatry, cardiovascular involvement is critical in certain pathologies. In the field of cardiology, on the other hand, the influence of the brain becomes increasingly apparent (also known as acute stress cardiomyopathy). However, recent epidemiological studies have shown that depression and coronary artery disease typically present as co-occurring pathologies of both the brain and the heart. This paper reviews the historical and modern approach in modern biology/physiology and behavioral science: anatomical and functional links between depression and coronary heart disease. Such co-occurring pathologies will advance our health and improve disease treatment.

At least three scenarios could be at play in these illnesses: (i) the primary pathology is in the brain, which triggers a cardiovascular pathology by disrupting physiological processes (e.g., acute stress cardiomyopathy), (ii) the primary pathology is in the cardiovascular system, which triggers a nervous system dysfunction (e.g., atherosclerosis leading to cognitive impairment), and (iii) the primary pathology is in a biological process that affects both the nervous and the cardiovascular systems, thus causing the co-occurrence of these two pathologies.

pathologies share a pathobiological mechanism but do not necessa

To be successful, research in co-occurring cardiovascular and medical specialties, including psychiatry, neurology, medicine, and research as well as the development of therapeutic approaches. Neurology is to provide a platform for the latest research and for emerging field of cardiovascular psychiatry and neurology. Although is introduced here for the first time, retrieving publications from *cardiovascular neurology* generates relevant information (often appear in the title of a journal publishing the work). A quick survey 2008 (Table 1) revealed, not surprisingly, that the number of items the years. Whereas the term *cardiovascular* showed a sharp increase in *psychiatry* “exploded” in the early nineties. Even though the term *cardiovascular neurology*, the later term has become more prevalent data, that is, by expressing *cardiovascular psychiatry* as a percentage of *neurology* as a percentage of the corresponding *neurology* (Figure sharply in the early sixties and has remained at about 5% of *cardiovascular psychiatry* had been below 1% of all *psychiatry*-related increased. Possibly, the ischemia-related brain disorders have *cardiovascular neurology* and the relatively recent revelation of disorders with mood disorders might have contributed to the increase. Cardiovascular Psychiatry and Neurology was created to provide physiological and pathological interactions between the nervous system and stimulate the development of relevant interdisciplinary and collaborative multidisciplinary efforts in advancing medical practices.

Table 1: A number of PubMed items retrieved from a search of cardiovascular psychiatry and neurology publications from 1960 to 2008. The table were searched (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>) by publication dates (years). No systematic check was made of individual retrieved items.

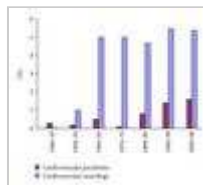


Figure 1: The proportions of retrieved PubMed items for Cardiovascular Psychiatry and Cardiovascular Neurology versus publication dates as described in Table 1. The percentages of *Cardiovascular Neurology* were calculated based on the total number of *Psychiatry* and *Neurology*, respectively.