Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Lectures on Development and Developmental Disabilities
Brain Awareness Month Lecture

Elucidating the Neural Basis of Affective Pathology in Youth: Neuroimaging Approaches

Mary Phillips’ long-term research goal is to identify specific functional abnormalities in neural systems underlying the different processes important for emotion processing, reward processing, and emotional regulation that may be present as biomarkers of disorder in individuals with major mood and anxiety disorders. These include, in particular, bipolar disorder, unipolar depression, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. The identification of these neural biomarkers of psychiatric disorder is an important step toward the long-term goal of improving diagnostic accuracy and informing management in individuals presenting in the early stages of psychiatric illness.

In the presentation, Dr. Phillips will present research that builds on her work in adults, and that has employed neuroimaging techniques to identify markers of reward and emotional regulation neural circuitry function and structure characterizing youth with, and youth at risk of, future mood disorders. She will also present recent work showing that specific measures of function and structure in these neural circuitries can help predict future clinical outcome in these youth. The goal of this research is to identify state- and trait-related neurobiological measures of pathophysiological processes in youth, to help identify those presently unaffected, yet at-risk, individual youth who are most likely to develop mood disorders in the future.

Thursday, March 12, 2015
4:10 p.m. • Room 241
VKC/One Magnolia Circle Building

Mary L. Phillips, M.D.
Pittsburgh Foundation-Emmerling Endowed Chair in Psychotic Disorders; Professor in Psychiatry and Translational Science; Director of Mood and Brain Laboratory, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, University of Pittsburgh

Register at:
vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/events