

Propositions accompanying the dissertation

The Origin of Dementia

1. The age-specific incidence of dementia has declined in industrialised countries, but identification of its causes is vital to sustain this trend and potentially counterbalance the increase in disease burden due to ageing of the population. [This thesis]
2. Transient episodes or prolonged periods of cerebral hypoxia accelerate cognitive decline and predispose to the development of dementia. [This thesis]
3. The contribution of arterial steno-occlusive disease to neurodegeneration warrants incorporation of cognitive outcome in interventional trials of carotid endarterectomy or stenting. [This thesis]
4. The increased risk of dementia with coronary heart disease and heart failure calls for optimal integration of brain and cardiac care. [This thesis]
5. Study of factors traditionally related to Alzheimer's disease, like amyloid- β and the Apolipoprotein E gene (*APOE*), outside the realm of dementia yields insight in the pathophysiology of Alzheimer's disease. [This thesis]
6. Whenever a theory appears to you as the only possible one, take this as a sign that you have neither understood the theory nor the problem that it was intended to solve.
— Sir Karl R. Popper, *Objective Knowledge: An Evolutionary Approach* (1972)
7. We find monuments erected to heroes who have won wars, but we find none commemorating anyone's preventing a war. The same is true with epidemics.
— Milton J. Rosenau, epidemiologist and co-founder of the Harvard School of Public Health
8. Society's generous endowment of academia should prompt scientists to pursue undertakings with applicability beyond the outlook from their ivory tower; conversely society would do well to remember that views are generally best from up high.
9. Upon encountering an epidemiologist, beware not to get submerged in their methodological marshes, but keep in mind that they are the only ones who can guide you safely across.
10. Applaud your critics and opponents, for complacency is the most treacherous accomplice of success.
11. From science I learned what the world is, from literature to imagine what it might be, and from philosophy why I need to contemplate both.
— Existential comics, 11 January 2017