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Cognitive phenotyping in the mouse

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ABSTRACT OF THE TALK

The world's societies constantly experience the dramatic ill effects of mental disorders. The cost of mental health problems in the UK has been estimated at more than £77 billion a year. Mental health is generally studied as a series of cognitive functions. Although cognitive disorders have profound effects on public health, little is known about the genetic and molecular mechanisms underlying cognition. The discovery of cognitive genes is a critical step to finding ways to prevent and/or develop treatments for many common cognitive disorders in humans. The identification of animal models (eg. the mouse) with behavioural/cognitive abnormalities represents the next frontier in the study of the functional genome.