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SEX HORMONES, COGNITION AND EMOTION IN PRIMATES: A LIFESPAN PERSPECTIVE

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Research in nonhuman primates is essential for understanding the effects of sex hormones on the brain, cognition and emotion throughout the lifespan. This symposium will highlight recent findings from nonhuman primate models and discuss their translational impact for human neurocognitive health. Kim Wallen (Emory University, USA) will address the organizational effects of sex hormones and their long-term consequences on a range of sexually-dimorphic behaviors, including cognition. James Herndon (Emory University, USA) will compare cognitive performance of aged female chimpanzees that have ceased cycling for medical reasons (such as enlarged uterus or other reproductive system dysfunction) with like-aged chimpanzees that have continued to have normal cycles in advanced age. Mary Lou Voytko (Wake Forest University, USA) will describe recent findings in older monkeys that suggest a role of the dopaminergic system in mediating beneficial effects of estrogens on brain and cognitive aging. Agnès Lacreuse (University of Massachusetts, USA) will present new data indicating that androgens affect specific emotional and cognitive processes in male nonhuman primates. Elizabeth Hampson (University of Western Ontario, Canada) will conclude the symposium by discussing the role of sex hormones in modulating cognition and emotion throughout the lifespan in humans.

Keywords: Menopause-Aging- Hormone Replacement Therapy