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Time after Time: Environmental Influences on the Aging Brain

Elizabeth Grossman | A238

The elderly population is growing rapidly, and factors that affect this group are of increasing importance, particularly neurological diseases and disorders typically associated with advanced age. Investigators are studying the effects of not just present-day exposures and environmental influences such as physical and mental exercise, but also exposures that occurred much earlier in life, whose effects may only become apparent in old age.
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"Are electronic cigarettes safer than conventional cigarettes, and should I switch?" Physicians all over the country are encountering questions such as this from their patients, and they have no readily available answers. Out of nowhere, it seems, e-cigarettes are appearing everywhere regular cigarettes are sold, and it would seem the devices take all the risk out of smoking. But many environmental health scientists aren't so sure that's the case.

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