



Mysterious World of Memory Transfer

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Most of us would have associated memory with the brain and the nerves. But what if I told you that cells in our body can retain memory? Observing and studying an individual's change after an organ transplant raises this question. I came across an article, 'What the Heart Remembers', in the magazine 'Psychology Today'. The article includes various real-life instances where a person who underwent an organ transplant starts developing new food interests, a distinct change in their personality, and memories of the incidents that had not happened to them. These behavioural changes appeared to align with their donor's personality.

Cellular Memory: Understanding the Science Behind It

Cellular memory is a scientific theory that states that memories are stored in cells throughout the body, not just in the brain. While this theory is still being researched and debated, it has gained traction in recent years due to the increasing number of anecdotal reports of cellular memory.

One of the most common examples of cellular memory is organ transplantation. In many cases, organ recipients have reported experiencing memories, emotions, and sensations that they never had before the transplant. These experiences often align with the donor's life experiences. For example, a heart recipient might suddenly develop a fear of spiders if the donor had a phobia of spiders.

There have also been reports of cellular memory in other situations, such as after blood transfusions or even after receiving a tattoo. In one case, a woman who received a butterfly tattoo on her arm began to have vivid dreams about being a butterfly.

It is surprising when the organ transplant recipient states the donor's characteristics such as gender, age, interests, and the cause of death even when this information is kept under wraps. There are instances when the recipient develops a fear of a particular thing or starts disliking things that he used to love the most before the transplant and vice versa. A 9-year-old boy received the heart of a 3-year-old girl. He loved water before the transplant but suddenly feared it afterward. Later it was found that the donor died of drowning.

Another instance where a 47-year-old man received the heart of a 17-year-old, killed in a drive-by shooting. The recipient described how he hated classical music, but after his transplant, he loved it and would play it all the time. It turned out that his donor had loved playing and listening to classical music.

While the scientific community is still exploring the possibility of cellular memory, several theories attempt to explain this phenomenon. One theory suggests that cells may be able to store memories through a process called epigenetic inheritance. This process involves changes in gene expression that can be passed down through generations. Another theory suggests that memories may be stored in the body's energy field, which other people can access.

Conclusion

For decades, the dominant theory of memory has been that memories are stored in synapses between neurons; memories persist due to the creation and strengthening of synaptic connections. However, some scientists have begun to question this paradigm. Thinking about memory existing in cells throughout the body, cellular memory, it is helpful to consider a few examples. Immune cells can remember foreign invaders years after they have left the body.

More research is needed to understand the science behind cellular memory fully. However, this fascinating phenomenon could revolutionize our understanding of memory and consciousness. It also raises essential ethical questions about autonomy, identity, and the nature of the self. If memories can be transferred from one person to another, does this mean a person's identity can also be transferred? What are the implications of this for organ donation and transplantation? These are just some of the questions that cellular memory raises.

Whether memories can transfer from one person to another remains unanswered. When the answer arrives, it will shed light on the science of memory and be a pathway for cutting-edge technology in the future.

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