Neural substrates of skilled vision:
Perceptual learning induces behaviourally relevant plasticity in human V1

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1. Memory traces remain malleable and do not fully consolidate; this keeps our brains flexible.

2. V1 is involved in learning from the very start of visual skill learning; indicating a significant degree of plasticity at the lowest level of the visual system.

3. Visual skill learning often leads to massive improvements in performance; fMRI measurements so far have not captured the mechanisms underlying these changes.

4. Psychophysical measurements are still the most elegant way of studying behaviour, and therefore fMRI experiments that aim to study behaviour miss their point if not paired with psychophysics.

5. Fundamental research should be driven by pure curiosity rather than a desire for applicability or profit, and therefore the current drive to link academic research to funding from industry is a mistake.

6. Methodological innovations are an important stimulus for research.

7. Human cognitive neuroimaging research is dependent on research in relevant animal models.

8. When doing research it is important to know when to take a break from it.

9. I hope you love birds too. It is economical. It saves going to heaven. ("Letter to miss Eugonia Hall, 1885; in "Letters of Emily Dickinson, ed. Mabel Loomis Todd, 1894, page 427").