

From Bench to Bedside: Research gets at the Heart of Hereditary Dementias



Bernardino Ghetti
Distinguished Professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

CURRENT RESEARCH


Identifying the underlying causes of hereditary dementias

Dementia is a general term for the loss of memory and other mental abilities severe enough to interfere with one's daily life. Caused by physical changes in the brain, there are many different types of dementias, with the most common being Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Bernardino Ghetti, Distinguished Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine, is a leader in the field of hereditary dementias, which includes Alzheimer's disease, Pick disease, frontotemporal dementia, and Gerstmann-Straeussler-Scheinker disease. As both a researcher and clinician, he spends his time studying the basic underpinnings of hereditary neurodegenerative diseases, diagnosing neurodegenerative diseases, and bridging the gap between basic research and clinical applications. Therefore, his bench-to-bedside approach, motivated by a deep concern for his patients and the "diseases that destroy the human spirit," has a profound ability to help understand the genetic and molecular basis of some of the most prevalent diseases that affect the aging population.

For twenty-two years, Dr. Ghetti served as the director of the Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center (IADC), which is funded by the National Institute on Aging and helps to identify individuals with probable Alzheimer disease. He continues to play an active role at the IADC while devoting his energy to his lab and patients. By combining clinical neurological and psychiatric experience with cutting-edge neuropathologic methods, protein chemistry, and molecular genetics, Dr. Ghetti hopes to understand the ways in which genetics affects the onset of dementias. As the director of one of the best neuropathology laboratories in the country, Dr. Ghetti's...

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AFFILIATION

 Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

EDUCATION

- Doctor in Medicine 1966, University of Pisa

AWARDS

- Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 2013
- Henry M. Wisniewski Award for Lifetime Achievement in Alzheimer's Disease Research, 2008
- President, International Society of Neuropathology, 2006-2010
- Honorary Doctorate in Medicine, University of Siena, Italy, 2005
- American Academy of Neurology, Potamkin Medal and Prize Winner, 1999
- and 2 more...

RESEARCH AREAS

Life Science, Neurological / Cognitive, Neurological / Cognitive

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. Bernardino Ghetti, at Indiana University School of Medicine, as he makes sense of the underlying genetic and molecular causes of dementias. Donations will fund continued research, help expand personnel, and allow Dr. Ghetti to purchase new equipment. In choosing to donate, you will fund bench-to-bedside research that has a dramatic impact on the lives of the aging population and those affected by hereditary dementias including patients, families, and caretakers.