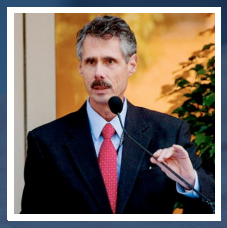
Biomarkers for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases



Howard Federoff

Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and Dean of School of Medicine, School of Medicine, Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience

CURRENT RESEARCH

Identifying and treating at-risk individuals for neurodegenerative diseases

Currently, the only means to reduce the devastating effects of Alzheimer's (AD) and Parkinson's disease (PD) is to slow progression. With age being the single greatest risk factor for both diseases, America is experiencing an increasing epidemic for which there are no disease modifying drugs available. In order to stop this epidemic, we must be able to preclinically identify individuals at high risk, and develop an intervention that can help delay -- or ideally, prevent -- the emergence of disease. Dr. Howard Federoff, Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience and Executive Dean of School of Medicine at Georgetown University, is therefore using biomarkers to administer a preclinical test that will identify at-risk individuals who are likely to develop Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. The only group to have developed preclinical biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease and move them forward to conduct secondary prevention clinical trials, Dr. Federoff and his team hope to find those who are at greater risk of developing these detrimental neurodegenerative diseases and enable discovery of disease modifying therapeutics.

Dr. Federoff and his lab focus on identifying blood based measures, or biomarkers, that can identify preclinical diseases. Safe, affordable, highly accurate and accessible, preclinical biomarkers are the most effective means to enable these vital secondary prevention trials in preclinical subjects. Once discovered and validated, these biomarkers can be used in similar secondary prevention trials in subjects at risk for Parkinson's disease. With such results, Dr. Federoff and team hope to develop intervention that slows or prevents progression in preclinical subjects.

Current areas of...

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AFFILIATION

University of California, Irvine

EDUCATION

- M.S., Ph.D., M.D. in 1983,Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- Intern, resident, fellow and postdoc at Massachusetts General Hospital

AWARDS

- President, American Society Experimental Neurotherapeutics, 2014-2016
- Recipient Outstanding Alumni Award, Earlham College, 2014
- Elected Fellow of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), 2012
- Recipient, Bernard Sandberg Award, American Society of Neural Therapy and Repair, 2009
- ACS Special Postdoctoral Award, 1979-1983

RESEARCH AREAS

Life Science, Diagnostics, Neurological / Cognitive, Neurological / Cognitive

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. Howard Federoff and his team at Georgetown University as they preclinically identify individuals at higher risk for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. Donations will help fund the $2M/year needed to test individuals of all ages and racial backgrounds for AD symptoms and $1.5M/year for PD. Breakthroughs will help advance the repositioned drugs that can potentially delay or prevent the most common neurodegenerative diseases in the US!