



Rosa Rademakers, Ph.D.

Professor of Neuroscience



Rosa Rademakers, Ph.D., is consultant of neuroscience at Mayo Clinic in Florida. She holds the academic rank of professor of neuroscience, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, and has full faculty privileges in neuroscience at Mayo Graduate School. Dr. Rademakers is recognized as the Mildred A. and Henry Uihlein II Professor of Medical Research.

Dr. Rademakers completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in biology, Master of Arts degree in biochemistry and Ph.D. degree in science at University of Antwerp in Belgium. She studied at Mayo Clinic initially as a visiting postdoctoral scientist, joining the staff in 2007 to launch her independent research program.

As a research scientist, Dr. Rademakers studies the molecular genetics of neurodegenerative diseases, particularly frontotemporal lobar degenerations (FTLD) and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) – also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. She is working to identify the novel causal genes for both disorders using family studies and to identify susceptibility genes that increase the risk to develop these neurodegenerative diseases in the general patient population.

Dr. Rademakers is internationally renowned in these fields of research. Her findings to date constitute major contributions toward uncovering a cure for ALS and FTLD. In 2011, she and her team of scientists discovered a genetic abnormality that is the most common cause of both disorders. This mutation explained the disease in more than 25 percent of FTLD patients and approximately 35 percent of ALS patients with other family members with dementia or ALS.

Dr. Rademakers’ research has resulted in three U.S. patents for detecting and treating dementia and diagnostics based on dementia-causing genes. Her grants have been supported via competitive funding from the National Institute on Aging, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, ALS Therapy Alliance and the Consortium for Frontotemporal Dementia Research. Her findings have been published in numerous high-impact scientific journals, including *Nature Genetics*; *Neuron*; *Lancet Neurology*; *Brain*; *Neurology*; and *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

In 2012 Dr. Rademakers was named Investigator of the Year, an award presented to individuals with a sustained career in outstanding, practice-changing research and an international reputation in their field of study. She is also a recipient of the Sheila Essey Award, conferred in 2013 by the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) in recognition of significant research contributions in the search for the cause, prevention of, and cure for ALS.