



Marius Wernig, MD, PhD

Dr. Wernig is a Professor of Pathology and Co-Director of the Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine at Stanford University. Originally from Austria, he graduated with an M.D. Ph.D. from the Technical University of Munich where he trained in developmental genetics in the lab of Rudi Balling. After completing his residency in Neuropathology and General Pathology at the University of Bonn, he became a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Dr. Rudolf Jaenisch at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research at MIT. In 2008, Dr. Wernig joined the faculty of the Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine and the Department of Pathology at Stanford University where he has been ever since. He received an NIH Pathway to Independence Award and has since received many other awards, including the Cozzarelli Prize for outstanding scientific excellence from the National Academy of Sciences U.S.A. the Outstanding Investigator Award from the International Society for Stem Cell Research, the New York Stem Cell Foundation Robertson Stem Cell Prize, a HHMI Faculty Scholar Award, and more recently the Ogawa-Yamanaka Stem Cell Prize.

Dr. Wernig's lab is interested in pluripotent stem cell biology and the molecular determinants of neural cell fate decisions. His laboratory was the first to generate functional neuronal cells reprogrammed directly from skin fibroblasts, which he termed induced neuronal (iN) cells. The lab is now working on identifying the molecular mechanisms underlying induced lineage fate changes, the phenotypic consequences of disease-causing mutations in human neurons and other neural lineages as well as the development of novel therapeutic gene targeting and cell transplantation-based strategies for a variety of monogenetic diseases.