

Arfan Ikram, MD, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair of Epidemiology at the department of Epidemiology, Erasmus MC Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Adjunct professor of Epidemiology at the Harvard Chan School of Public Health.

Dr. Ikram serves as principal investigator of the Rotterdam Study and a key collaborator in the CHARGE (Cohorts for Heart and Aging Research in Genomic Epidemiology) consortium. His research focuses on investigating the etiology of neurologic diseases in the elderly, with a particular focus on dementia, Alzheimer disease and healthy brain aging. The main areas of research are to elucidate the earliest signs of brain diseases, before clinical symptoms are present, and to understand how these lead to clinical manifestation of disease. Moreover, he is interested in preclinical signs that can be used to identify persons at highest risk of developing disease. More recently, he has expanded his research interests to focus on Healthy Longevity at large and determinants of Health care and Health care utilization. For his research, he has used data from the large population-based Rotterdam Study and Rotterdam Scan Study that have followed nearly 15,000 persons for a period of nearly 30 years. A main focus of his research has been the use of MRI-imaging to understand brain disease. Also, he has used neuropsychological testing, genome-wide, exome chip, DNA-methylation and sequencing technologies, and recently electronic gait assessments. Not only is he interested in how these pre-clinical markers lead to clinical disease, he also wants to disentangle the intricate relationships between these markers. Dr. Ikram is also active in various local and national research infrastructures, including EraCORe (clinic-based COVID-19 cohort study), BBMRI-NL, Health-RI, X-omics, and Netherlands Cohorts Consortium. He has published over 900 international scientific papers (H-index = 101) and currently heads a research group of 12 PhD-students, 3 post-docs, 3 MSc-students, and 5 research staff.

Speech Title: The Intricate Relation between Genetics and Lifestyle in the Etiology of Dementia