



**Alberto Ascherio, MD, PhD** is an Italian native who graduated with honors from the medical school of the University of Milan in 1978. He trained in internal medicine in Italy, and from 1980 to 1988 he practiced medicine and public health in Latin America and Africa. He came to the United States in 1988 and obtained a doctoral degree in epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health in 1992. His research is now primarily devoted to finding the causes of multiple sclerosis, ALS, and Parkinson's disease. Since 1997 he has directed the investigation of Parkinson's disease several large cohorts comprising over 300,000 men and women who have provided detailed information on their dietary habits and lifestyle in addition to blood or cheek cell samples for genetic and other laboratory analyses. Originally designed to investigate the causes of cancer and cardiovascular diseases, these cohorts have become a unique source of data for the prospective investigation of Parkinson's disease. Among the most recent findings of his research on Parkinson's disease are the increased risk associated with pesticides exposure, the reduced risk associated with high plasma urate, physical activity, use of nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs and caffeine, and the interaction between the latter and use of postmenopausal hormones.

Dr. Ascherio is currently professor of epidemiology and nutrition at the Harvard School of Public Health, and professor of medicine at the Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts.

Representative Publications:

**Ascherio A**, Chen H, Weisskopf MG, O'Reilly E, McCullough ML, Calle EE, Schwarzschild MA, Thun MJ. Pesticide exposure and risk for Parkinson's disease. *Ann Neurol* 2006 Aug;60(2):197-203.

Chen H, Jacobs E, Schwarzschild MA, McCullough ML, Calle EE, Thun MJ, **Ascherio A**. Nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drug use and the risk for Parkinson's disease. *Ann Neurol* 2005 Dec;58(6):963-7.

Chen H, Zhang SM, Schwarzschild MA, Hernan MA, **Ascherio A**. Physical activity and the risk of Parkinson disease. *Neurology* 2005 Feb 22;64(4):664-9.

Chen H, Zhang SM, Hernan MA, Schwarzschild MA, Willett WC, Colditz GA, Speizer FE, **Ascherio A**. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and the risk of Parkinson disease. *Arch Neurol* 2003 Aug;60(8):1059-64.

**Ascherio A**, Zhang SM, Hernan MA, Kawachi I, Colditz GA, Speizer FE, Willett WC. Prospective study of caffeine consumption and risk of Parkinson's disease in men and women. *Ann Neurol* 2001 Jul;50(1):56-63.