



SUPERIORE. Conferenza

“Human Hallmarks of aging and age associated diseases: focus on DNA damage and repair, mitochondrial dysfunction and neurodegeneration”

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Biological ageing can be thought of as a progressive decline in the function of the cells of an organism, ultimately resulting in senescence. In recent years, there has been a considerable development towards a better understanding of the underlying causes of aging, the hallmarks of aging. These include genome instability and mitochondrial dysfunction as major elements. Both of these and others are associated with increased oxidative stress, a major component of aging. It is emerging that macromolecular damage is a major driver of aging, in particular damage to DNA. Major themes of these seminars will be the potential molecular causes of ageing and the roles that many different factors might have in contributing to cell loss and tissue decline with age. Aging is the highest risk factor for age-associated diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease and neurodegeneration, so to prevent or intervene against these diseases we need to understand the fundamental changes caused by aging. Promising interventions will be discussed.

Dr. Bohr received his M.D. in 1978, Ph.D. in 1987, and D.Sc. in 1987 from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. After training in neurology and infectious diseases at the University Hospital in Copenhagen, Dr. Bohr did a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Hans Klenow at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. He then worked with Dr. Philip Hanawalt at Stanford University as a research scholar from 1982-1986. In 1986, he joined the National Cancer Institute (NCI) as an investigator and become a tenured Senior Investigator in 1988. Dr. Bohr developed a research section on DNA repair at the NCI. In 1992, he moved to the National Institute on Aging to become Chief of the Laboratory of Molecular Genetics, renamed Laboratory of Molecular Gerontology in February 2001.



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