

Nicoletta Pedemonte

Nicoletta Pedemonte obtained her PhD in Human Genetics at the University of Turin, Italy in 2007 and a postgraduate specialization in Clinical Pathology at the University of Genoa, Italy in 2011. She is Senior Scientist at the UOC Genetica Medica of the IRCCS Istituto Giannina Gaslini in Genoa, Italy, where she leads a group of seven researchers. She has a strong expertise in drug discovery strategies and functional genomics. Her research activity is focused on transepithelial ion transport mechanisms in airway epithelial cells, mechanisms associated to mutant protein maturation and degradation, and identification of novel small molecules to rescue mutant CFTR protein in cystic fibrosis. She has authored 79 international peer-reviewed publications with 3,469 citations, H-factor 23 (Scopus). Scopus Author Identifier: 8095389700



Jeffrey Brodsky

Prof. Jeffrey Brodsky holds the Avinoff Chair in Biological Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh and is the Director of the Center for Protein Conformational Diseases. He attended the University of Illinois where he received his bachelor's degree in Biochemistry, graduating magna cum laude with honors in 1985



He then entered the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology graduate program at Harvard University, receiving his PhD in 1990, and worked with Prof. Guido Guidotti. Next, he moved to the University of California, Berkeley for post-doctoral research as an American Cancer Society Research Fellow and studied with Prof. Randy Schekman (Nobel Laureate, 2013). Prof. Brodsky joined the Faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh in 1994 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2000. In 2006, he was promoted to Full Professor and was awarded the Avinoff Chair. Based on his work, Prof. Brodsky received the University of Pittsburgh Chancellor's Outstanding Research Award in the Junior Division in 1998 and the Chancellor's Outstanding Teaching Award in 2008, as well as the Pitt Innovator Award in 2007. In 2013, he was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Prof. Brodsky has served on the editorial boards of three journals, has published more than 230 scientific papers, holds 3 patents, and acts as a scientific consultant for several disease foundations and companies.

The Brodsky laboratory has defined how misfolded proteins—many of which lead to specific diseases, most notably Cystic Fibrosis—are identified and then destroyed in the cell. Early work in the laboratory led to the identification of the ER associated degradation (ERAD) pathway, which serves as the protein quality control apparatus to clear aberrant proteins that enter the secretory pathway. Ongoing work in the laboratory explores both the basic mechanisms of this pathway, has characterized pathways that serve as back-up systems for ERAD, and has created models for CF and related diseases in model cell types. Collaborative studies have led to the identification of pre-clinical candidates that may one day become drugs to cure ERAD-linked diseases.

<http://www.biology.pitt.edu/person/jeffrey-brodsky>