

Title: Pre-symptomatic to Asymptomatic: Investigations into Halting Parkinson's Disease Progression

Brief Abstract:

Parkinson's disease, the second most common neurodegenerative disorder, affects more than a million people in the USA. The complete pathoetiology of idiopathic Parkinson's disease (iPD) is still unknown. A multitude of dopamine enhancing agents and surgical therapies are available as therapeutic options, and although they are very effective in early disease stages, they do not stop disease progression. In order to develop disease-modifying therapies, it is extremely important to obtain a better understanding of disease pathogenesis and propose novel therapeutic strategies. With these goals in mind, Dr Schiess in collaboration with other health institutions designed and conducted the following studies:

1. Phase 1 Study of Allogeneic Bone Marrow-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cell Therapy for Idiopathic Parkinson's Disease
2. A randomized placebo controlled pilot study to evaluate the Safety and Fecal Microbiome changes following weekly Administration of Lyophilized PRIM-DJ2727 in Subjects with Parkinson's disease
3. Progression Markers for Early Parkinson's Disease from Changes in Digital Device Interaction and Longitudinal Brain Connectivity
4. A Natural History Analysis of Rapid Eye Movement Sleep Behavior Disorder as Prognostic for Parkinson's disease

This seminar would describe the status of each trial, the rationale behind each idea, the possible impact on Parkinson's disease and the future directions of research in the field.