

Alberto Ascherio, MD, DrPH, is a Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health and a Professor of Medicine at the Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Ascherio graduated in medicine at the University of Milan in 1978. He practiced medicine and public health in Latin America and Africa for several years and then moved to Boston, where he received a doctoral degree in epidemiology in 1992 and joined the faculty at Harvard. Over the past 25 years he has focused his work on neurological diseases. His current research is primarily devoted to finding the causes of multiple sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease (PD), and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Among the most notable discoveries on multiple sclerosis to which he has contributed are the key role of infection with the Epstein-Barr virus, vitamin D insufficiency, and cigarette smoking as risk factors for MS, and the importance of vitamin D status as a determinant of MS progression. His ongoing work on MS includes a large longitudinal investigation on vitamin D and MS risk in African Americans, and a study on metabolomics predictors of MS progression.