

Nancy S. Wexler

Nancy Wexler, Ph.D., is the [Higgins Professor of Neuropsychology](#) in the Departments of Neurology and Psychiatry at Columbia University. She has served as President of the [Hereditary Disease Foundation](#) since 1983. Her research led to the identification of the Huntington's disease gene and has since led to the identification of other disease genes including those responsible for familial Alzheimer's disease, kidney cancer, two kinds of neurofibromatosis, Lou Gehrig's disease (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), and dwarfism. Dr. Wexler has taken part in developing guidelines for how the potentially toxic information associated with highly accurate genetic testing should be handled. In addition to her work with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, she has served on advisory committees for the National Institutes of Health, Department of Energy, and Human Genome Organization, including serving as Chair of the Joint NIH/DOE Ethical, Legal and Social Issues Working Group of the National Center for Human Genome Research and the Department of Energy, Chair of the Human Genome Organization (HUGO), giving guidance during the Human Genome Project.

She received her bachelor's from Radcliffe College in 1967, and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Michigan in 1974.

Dr. Wexler has served as a member of the board of directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Science on the Advisory Committee on Research on Women's Health, National Institutes of Health and as a Councilor, Society for Neuroscience, and as a Council Member of the Institute of Medicine. Dr. Wexler is a Council Member of the National Academy of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences. As their representative, she serves as a member of the Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy (COSEPUP), National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and the National Academy of Medicine. She is currently a Member on both the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Medicine Presidents' Advisory Group on Human Gene Editing and the National Academy of Medicine's Committee on Evidence Base For Genetic Testing. She is an honorary Fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Section on Neuroscience; and a Member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts. She is also an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; and of the Royal College of Physicians, London, U.K. She is an Overseas Fellow at the Royal Society of Medicine. She has received numerous honors and awards, including several honorary doctorates. In 1993, she received the Albert Lasker Public Service Award. Dr. Wexler received the 2007 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Science.

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