

Curriculum Vitae

Personal information **Ahmad Aziz**

Work experience

CURRENT POSITION(S)

- 2025–present **Professor** of 'Population & Clinical Neuroepidemiology', Institute of Medical Biometry, Informatics & Epidemiology (IMBIE), Faculty of Medicine, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany
- 2020–present **Group Leader** (tenured from 2022 onwards) 'Population & Clinical Neuroepidemiology', DZNE, Bonn, Germany
- 2019 –present **Consultant Neurologist**, Dept. of Neurology, University Clinic Bonn, Germany

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

- 2018 – 2020 **Epidemiologist & Data Scientist**, DZNE, Bonn, Germany
- 2017 – 2018 **Consultant Neurologist/Senior Clinical Research Associate**, UCL Institute of Neurology, London, UK
- 2016 – 2017 **Marie-Sklodowska Curie Research Fellow**, UCL Institute of Neurology, London, UK
- 2016 – 2017 **Clinical Fellow** in neurogenetic & movement disorders (Prof. S.J. Tabrizi & Prof. K.P. Bhatia), National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London, UK
- 2014 – 2018 **Principal Investigator**, Dept. of Neurology, Leiden University, Leiden, NL

Education and training

- 2023 Helmholtz Leadership Academy 'Leading with Impact'
- 2017 Board certification as a **Neurologist** and **Epidemiologist**, Leiden University, NL
- 2010 **PhD degree** (with distinction), Leiden University and the Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience (Leiden & Amsterdam, NL). Supervisors: Prof. R.A.C. Roos & Prof. Dick Swaab.
- 2011 **MD degree** (with distinction), Leiden University, NL
- 2001–2006 **BSc & MSc** in Medicine (both with distinction), Leiden University, NL

Additional information

Publications

BIBLIOMETRICS:

- Total no. of peer-reviewed papers: **> 120**
- Book chapters: **6**
- Complete list of publications: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=QlmbAIAAAA&hl=en>

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- Rosenthal LS, Farag M, **Aziz NA**, Bang J. Vesicular Monoamine Transport Inhibitors: Current Uses and Future Directions. **Lancet**: 2025;406:650-664 (DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(25)01072-4)
- Talevi V, Lee HM, Liu D, Beyer MD, Salomoni P, Breteler MMB, **Aziz NA**. Age and Sex Effects on Blood Retrotransposable Element Expression Levels: Findings From the Population-Based Rhineland Study. **Aging Cell**: 2025;24(8):e70092. (DOI: 10.1111/ace.70092).
- Melas K, Talevi V, Imtiaz MA, Etteldorf R, Estrada S, Krüger DM, Pena-Centeno T, **Aziz NA**, Fischer A, Breteler MMB. Blood-derived microRNAs are related to cognitive domains in the general population. **Alzheimer's & Dementia**: 2024; 20(10):7138-7159.
- Fox FAU, Liu D, Breteler MMB, **Aziz NA**. Physical activity is associated with slower epigenetic ageing – Findings from the Rhineland Study. **Aging Cell**: 2023; e13828.
- Fox FAU, Diers K, Lee H, Mayr A, Reuter M, Breteler MMB, **Aziz NA**. Association Between Accelerometer-Derived Physical Activity Measurements and Brain Structure: A Population-Based Cohort Study. **Neurology** 2022; 99(11):e1202-e1215. (Editorial about this article: **Neurology**: 2022; 99(11):455-456).
- Aziz NA**, Corman VM, Echterhoff AKC, Richter A, Schmandke A, Schmidt ML, Schmidt TH, de Vries FM, Drost C, Breteler MMB. Seroprevalence and correlates of SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibodies from a population-based study in Bonn, Germany. **Nature Communications**: 2021, 12, Article number: 2117.
- Warnat-Herresthal S*, [...], **Aziz NA*** et al. Swarm Learning for decentralized and confidential clinical machine learning. **NATURE**: 2021; 594(7862):265-270 (*Joint first author)
- Gardiner SL, Boogaard MW, Trompet S, de Mutsert R, Rosendaal FR, Gussekloo J, Jukema JW, Roos RA, **Aziz NA**. High prevalence of carriers of intermediate and pathological polyglutamine disease-associated alleles in large population-based cohorts. **JAMA Neurol**. 2019;76(6):650-656. (Editorial about this article: **JAMA Neurol**: 76(6):639-640).
- Aziz NA**, Van der Burg JM, Tabrizi SJ, Landwehrmeyer GB. Overlap between age of onset and progression

- determinants in Huntington disease. **Neurology**: 2018;90(24): 2099-2106 (*Editorial about this article: Neurology*: 90 (24):1087-88).
10. Van der Burg JM, Gardiner SL, Ludolph AC, Landwehrmeyer GB, Roos RA, **Aziz NA**. Body weight is a robust predictor of clinical progression in Huntington disease. **Annals of Neurology**, 2017;82(3):479-483.

Projects

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2023 – 2027 **Profilbildung Grant 2022** by the science ministry for the *InVirtuo 4.0* project for establishing photorealistic virtual experiments in neuroscientific research (*co-PI*, **150 k€** from a total of 3.4 M€)
- 2022 – 2027 **ERC Starting Grant 2021** for the project *TRANSIT-ND* aiming to assess the role of neurogenomic instability and somatic mutations in the pathogenesis of neurodegeneration (*success rate 2021: 10%*) (*PI*, **1.5 M€**)
- 2020 – 2025 **DZNE Career Development Fellowship**
- 2019 – 2021 **Alzheimer's Association Research Grant** by the American Alzheimer's Association for developing a deep-learning approach for fully automatic hypothalamic subsegmentation on MR images (*PI*, **150 k\$**)
- 2015 – 2016 **Marie-Sklodowska Curie Individual Fellowship**, which supported my research and training at UCL Institute of Neurology/National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, London, UK (*success rate MSCA-IF 2015: 14%*) (*PI*, **100 k€**).
- 2016 **Alkemade-Keuls Research Grant**, for studying endocrine and metabolic changes in Parkinson disease (*PI*, **11 k€**)
- 2014 **VENI grant**, from the talent program of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research for studying the role of tandem repeat polymorphisms as genetic modifiers of brain function (*success rate 2014: 14%*) (*PI*, **250 k€**)
- 2014 **Seed Fund**, international grant by the European Huntington Disease Network (*PI*, **50 k€**)
- 2008 **Cure Huntington's Disease Initiative Grant** for studying hypothalamic changes in Huntington disease (*co-applicant*; **200 k€**)
- 2006 **MOSAIC Grant** by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research for studying neuroendocrine and metabolic changes in Huntington and Parkinson disease (*PI*, **180 k€**)

PRIZES AND AWARDS

- 2015 **Young Talent Prize of the Dutch Society for Neuroscience**, early-career award for promising postdoctoral researchers
- 2011 **Dr. I. Snapperprijs**, a national prize by the Amsterdam University Medical Centre awarded to two outstanding medical students in the Netherlands
- 2011 **ARIA Award** of the ARIA Students' Association for the best Afghan student in NL
- 2011 **Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting Attendance Award** by the 'Royal Dutch Academy of Arts and Sciences'
- 2009 **World Congress on Huntington's Disease Young Investigator Award** (Vancouver, CA)
- 2008 **European Huntington Disease Network Poster Award** (Lisbon, PT)
- 2003-2006 **Excellent Student's Program & Honours Program**, Leiden University, NL
- 2001 **Best Student Award**, 'Rijnlands Lyceum', Sassenheim, NL

Memberships

OTHER SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

- 2024 – present **Executive Board** (elected) of the European Huntington Disease Network
- 2024 – present **Helmholtz Health & Prevention Task Force** (Germany)
- 2023 – present **Advisory Board** of the International Society for Neurodegenerative Diseases
- 2022 – 2024 **Chair** (*co-chair*: 2019 – 2022) of the '*Scientific and Bioethics Advisory Committee*' and the '*Clinical Trials Review Committee*' of the European Huntington Disease Network
- 2014 – present **Grant Reviewer** for the Alzheimer's Association (USA), MND Association, Stroke Association, Lister Prize (UK), Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO/ZonMW, NL), 'Foundation pour la Recherche Medicinale' & 'Agence nationale de la recherche' (FR) and the 'la Caixa' Health Research Foundation (ES).
- 2008 – present **Reviewer** for >45 different journals, including *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, *Annals of Neurology*, *Brain*, *Brain Pathology*, *British Medical Journal*, *Human Molecular Genetics*, *JAMA Neurology*, *Lancet Healthy Longevity*, *Molecular Psychiatry*, *Movement Disorders*, *Nature Aging*, *Nature Communications*, *Neurobiology of Disease*, *Neurology*

Other Relevant Information

SUPERVISION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

- 2018 – present *Main supervisor*: 4 postdoctoral fellows, 7 PhD (including 2 *China Research Council Excellence Scholarship* PhD students), 7 MSc & 2 MD ('Dr. med.') students (Population Health Sciences, DZNE, Bonn, Germany)

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- 2024 – present **Teaching Committee** Bonn International Graduate School Clinical and Population Sciences (BIGS-CPS)
- 2018 – present **Reader** in Bonn International Graduate School Clinical and Population Sciences (BIGS-CPS) course '*Epidemiology*', and weekly '*Epidemiology & Biostatistics*' meetings (University of Bonn/DZNE, Bonn, Germany)
- 2011 – 2016 **Teacher** in '*Clinical Neurology*', '*Translational Neuroscience*' and '*Research Methodology*' courses to (bio-)medical students and specialist registrars (Leiden University, Leiden, NL)

ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

2018 – present **Coordinator** of PhD training in Population Health Sciences (DZNE, Bonn, Germany)

2018 – present **Organizer** of multidisciplinary data science meetings between epidemiologists, bio-informaticians, statisticians and machine learning experts (DZNE, Bonn, Germany)

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

2025 – present **PI-representative** (DZNE, Bonn, Germany)

2022 – 2024 Organizing committee of the '*DZNE Science Meeting*' (DZNE, Bonn, Germany)

2019 – present Member of the institutional '*Graduate Education Committee*' (DZNE, Bonn, Germany)