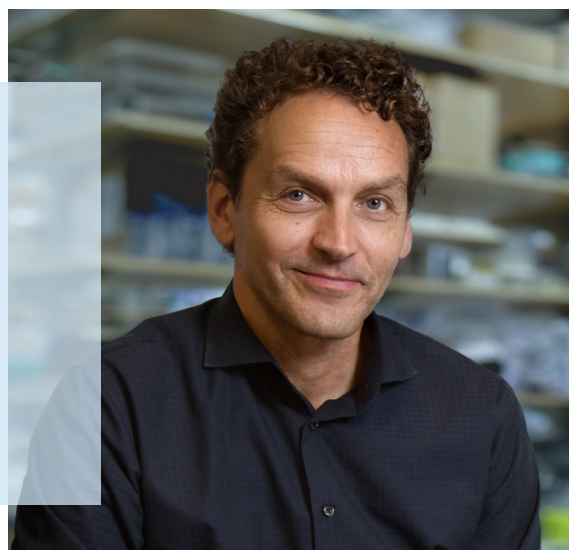


Martin Hetzer, PhD

Senior Vice President,
Chief Science Officer



Martin Hetzer is the Salk Institute's Senior Vice President and Chief Science Officer. He provides leadership in developing and implementing Salk's overall scientific strategy, as well as overseeing research operations in support of this strategy.

Hetzer is also the Jesse and Caryl Philips Foundation Chair and a professor in the Molecular and Cell Biology Laboratory. As a researcher, he has garnered such accolades as the National Institutes of Health Transformative Research award; the Glenn Award for Research in Biological Mechanisms of Aging; and the American Society of Cell Biology's Early Career Life Science award. He was named an Ellison Medical Foundation Senior Scholar in Aging, an American Cancer Society Research Scholar and a Pew Scholar.

The Hetzer lab applies genomics, proteomics and advanced imaging biology techniques to pose questions about how the human genome is organized inside a cell's nucleus. He was among the first to show that structural proteins of the nucleus play a direct role in changing gene expression during normal and pathological development as well as cancer. Together with his team he also discovered long-lived proteins (LLPs) in the nucleus, which exhibit no or very little protein turnover in the adult brain. The functional decline of LLPs could be a major contributor to age-related changes in the survival of nerve cells. A major focus of the lab is to understand what allows LLPs to stay intact throughout an organism's entire lifespan. In people with neurodegenerative diseases, it appears that LLPs in older cells lead to the decline of the nucleus. Understanding why this happens is the first step to potentially preventing and treating diseases like Alzheimer's disease. He will continue to serve as principal investigator for his lab.

Hetzer was born in Vienna, Austria, where he earned his doctorate in biochemistry and genetics from the Vienna Biocenter. He then moved to the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, Germany, where he pursued his postdoctoral work. He was recruited to the Salk Institute in 2003.