

**Dipartimento di Biotecnologie e Bioscienze – UNIMIB**

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# **Neural stem cells: from initial discovery to clinical trials for neurological disorders**

**Prof. Angelo Vescovi**

Department of Biotechnology and Biosciences, IRCCS Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza & Inst. Human Genetics  
G.Mendel, Houston Methodist Institute for Academic Medicine, StemGen Spa and HyperStem SA.

**Abstract:** The dogma that the mammalian brain was incapable of neurogenesis in adulthood was initially challenged in the early sixties by Joseph Altman, whom proposed that new neural cells could be generated within discrete areas of the adult central nervous system. The seminar describes an ideal journey, beginning with the initial discovery of the persistence of active neurogenic precursors in the adult mouse telencephalon in the early 90s in Calgary, during my postdoctoral training, through the demonstration that such cells were, indeed neural stem cells and the isolation of their human counterpart from the fetal brain a few years later in Milan. A discussion will follow as to the most relevant physiological properties of these cells and how these were harnessed to establish standardized cell therapy drugs and implement successful phase I trials for Multiple Sclerosis, ALS and for incurable glioblastoma in humans, recently concluded.

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