Faculty Profile

Valter Longo, Ph.D., came to the United States at age 16 from Genoa, Italy hoping to be a rock star. Luckily for the field of aging, fate led him down a different career path. Dr. Longo’s destiny changed as an undergraduate when he was asked to be the school’s bandleader. He refused, knowing it could cost him his “rock reputation.” After a few days of introspection, he decided to switch fields into a subject on the other side of the academic universe: biochemistry.

“Aging is a great mystery,” he said. “I spent two or three days thinking about what is important mystery-wise, I thought – you can’t miss with this.”

Dr. Longo examines the fundamental mechanisms of aging in yeast by using genetics and biochemistry techniques. He is also interested in identifying the molecular pathways conserved from simple organisms to humans that can be modulated to protect against multiple stresses and delay or prevent Alzheimer’s disease and other diseases of aging.

Valter Longo, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Gerontology and Biology