

Bennet I. Omalu, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H.

Founding Member, Brain Injury Research Institute

Bennet I. Omalu, MD, MBA, MPH is a Founding Member of the Brain Injury Research Institute. He is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Pathology in the Department of Pathology at University of California, Davis and the Chief Medical Examiner for San Joaquin County, California.

In 2002, Dr. Omalu became the first doctor to identify physical evidence of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) – a neurological disorder associated with repeated head trauma that is classified by significant cognitive deterioration. Symptoms of CTE can include mood swings, psychotic problems, dementia and Parkinson’s disease. Prior to his discovery, CTE was a widely recognized, but still physically undocumented disease in any other activity other than boxing. Dr. Omalu identified evidence of CTE in tissue samples from the brains of deceased American football players and wrestlers, and in a high school football player.



Later Dr. Omalu became the first doctor to delineate the histologic subtypes of CTE, furthering the knowledge of this disease and facilitating its identification. By describing the distinct forms of CTE, Dr. Omalu has permitted the scientific community a novel way of approaching this disease process.

Dr. Omalu holds a Masters in Public Health Degree in Epidemiology and is a fully licensed physician who holds four board certifications in Anatomic Pathology, Clinical Pathology, Forensic Pathology and Neuropathology.

Dr. Omalu is also Co-Director and Visiting Professor at Blanchette Rockefeller Institute of Neuroscience, Brain Injury Division, at West Virginia University. He is the Chief Medical Examiner for San Joaquin County, California. Dr. Omalu also serves as a Consulting Forensic Neuropathologist for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the Commonwealth of Virginia and for the Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner for Clark County, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dr. Omalu is a member of several medical organizations including the American College of Epidemiology, American Society of Clinical Pathologists, College of American Pathologists and the International Bibliographical Association.