

Byron D. Ford, Ph.D. is the M. Wharton Young Endowed Professor and chair of the Department of Anatomy and associate dean for research and graduate studies at Howard University College of Medicine. A neuroscientist with more than three decades of research experience, Ford studies the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying stroke and neuroinflammation, with particular emphasis on the neuroprotective and regenerative functions of neuregulin-1. His research has been continuously supported by the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense and other federal and private organizations and has contributed to the development of novel therapeutic approaches for stroke, traumatic brain injury, cerebral malaria and other neurological disorders.

Ford has authored more than 60 peer-reviewed scientific publications, and his research has resulted in numerous U.S. and international patents related to neuroprotection and therapeutic development. He has served on numerous NIH scientific review panels and was a member of the National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke from 2012-16. In 2024, he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society.

Before joining Howard University in 2022, Ford was a professor at the University of California, Riverside School of Medicine, where he served in several leadership roles, including associate dean for pre-clerkship medical education and director of the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program. Previously, he was a professor and vice chair of neurobiology at Morehouse School of Medicine. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Grambling State University and a Ph.D. in physiology and neuroscience from Meharry Medical College. He completed postdoctoral training in neurobiology at Harvard Medical School and the National Institutes of Health.