Jan Vijg, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair, Genetics
Professor, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
Lola and Saul Kramer Chair in Molecular Genetics

Jan Vijg received his Ph.D. at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands in 1987. From 1987 to 1990 he served as head of the department of molecular biology of the TNO Institute for Experimental Gerontology in Rijswijk, the Netherlands. In the same period, he founded and was chair of the board of the Biomedical Study Group on the Etiology of Aging of the Netherlands Foundation of Medical and Health Research, and organized the Molecular Biology Group within EURAGE, the EU Concerted Action on Aging Research. Dr. Vijg then founded and served as the scientific director of Ingeny B.V., a Dutch biotechnology company.

In 1993 Dr. Vijg moved to Boston to take up a position as associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and director of the molecular genetics section of the gerontology division at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Five years later, he accepted an offer from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio to become a professor in the department of physiology and director of the human genetics program of the Sam and Ann Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies. From 2006 to 2008 Dr. Vijg was a professor at the Buck Institute for Age Research in Novato, CA.

With his research team, Dr. Vijg was the first to develop transgenic mouse models for studying mutagenesis in vivo (in 1989), and he has used these models ever since in investigating the possible relationship between damage to the genome and aging. He has published more than 200 scientific articles and is the inventor or co-inventor on eight patents.