

AAAAI Foundation and Dennis K. Ledford, MD, FAAAAI and University of South Florida Allergy & Immunology Division Lectureship



Dennis K. Ledford, MD is Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics and Ellsworth & Mabel Simmons Professor of Allergy & Immunology at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine. Dr. Ledford attended the University of Tennessee Medical School, completed a residency program at the University of Tennessee and received postgraduate training in Allergy and Immunology at the University of South Florida and in Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology at New York University.

Dr. Ledford's 41 years of experience in the specialty have been marked with numerous honors and accolades. He was listed in the America's Top Doctors Guide in 2010 and was given a Most Compassionate Doctor Award from Vitals in 2012. He served as President of the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology (2011-2012) and was the Chair of the ARTrust Steering Committee (now the AAAAI Foundation) from 2012-2015. Ledford has chaired the Work Group on Post Graduate Medical Education, Future of Allergy and Immunology Task Force of AAAAI and ACAAI since 2009. In 2015, Dr. Ledford was named Best Allergist/Immunologist in Tampa Bay by *Tampa Bay Magazine*, won the Outstanding Clinician Award from the World Allergy Association and was inducted into the Barnes/Behnke Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society, which honors role-model physician teachers recognized for demonstrated excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion and dedication to service. Dr. Ledford has said that he, "chose a career in medicine because I wanted to make a lifetime commitment to a profession that could improve people's lives," which succinctly embodies the mission of AAAAI Foundation, and we are proud to establish this lectureship in honor of his significant achievements as an academician, researcher and practitioner. This Lectureship was announced at the 2018 AAAAI/WAO Joint Congress in Orlando, with the inaugural presentation at the 2019 AAAAI Annual Meeting.

2019 marks the inaugural year of the Dennis K. Ledford Lectureship. It will be presented in Plenary Session 3101: Systemic Regulation of Susceptibility and Pathogenesis of Allergic Inflammation on Sunday, February 24, 2019: 8:15 AM - 9:45 AM, Moscone Center South, Hall A

AAAAI Foundation and Dennis K. Ledford, MD, FAAAAI and University of South Florida Allergy & Immunology Division Lectureship – Dr. Sergejs Berdnikovs, PhD



Dr. Sergejs Berdnikovs received his undergraduate training in Biological Sciences/Archaeozoology from the University of Latvia (Riga, Latvia). In 2005, he graduated with a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences/Evolutionary and Developmental Biology from the University of Cincinnati and joined the Division of Allergy and Immunology at Northwestern University as a postdoctoral fellow. Dr. Berdnikovs joined the faculty ranks in 2012 and is now an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Northwestern University in Chicago, Feinberg School of Medicine in the Division of Allergy and Immunology.

Dr. Berdnikovs' PhD graduate training focused on computational biology and modeling complex biological processes in evolution and development. His "wet lab" postdoctoral training was in the field of Allergy and Immunology, investigating diverse mechanisms regulating allergic inflammation and leukocyte trafficking. He has since initiated a systems biology research program that takes full advantage of his scientific background, combining computational data mining and bench testing of resulting hypotheses. Dr. Berdnikovs' current research focuses on novel and little understood systemic aspects of allergy, including the hormonal regulation of epithelial homeostasis, immunometabolism of asthma, eosinophil microenvironmental plasticity, and recapitulation of developmental programs in allergic disease.