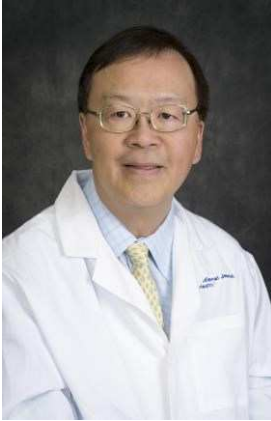


AAAAI Foundation and Donald Y. M. Leung, MD, PhD, FAAAAI - JACI Lecture: Investing Together in Our Future



Dr. Donald Y. M. Leung, is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* (JACI) and has served for the past 15 years. Under his leadership, the impact factor of our journal has risen from 3.7 to over 11.0, reflecting a marked improvement in publications of research dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of allergic and immunologic diseases. JACI is the most highly cited Journal in the field of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology and is the most visible official publication of The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI). Dr. Leung stepped down from his Editor-in-chief position in spring of 2015. As one of his initiatives to support and enhance research in our specialty and maintain JACI's high impact factor, he proposes to establish a new 4 million dollar research fund.

The “Donald Y. M. Leung, MD, PhD, FAAAAI-JACI Lecture” commemorates the initiation of this effort and the opportunity to advance the knowledge and/or treatment of allergy, asthma and immunology by providing a source of funding for future research. The vision is to support quality, cutting-edge translational and basic research suitable for publication in JACI and further advance patient care and the credibility of allergy/immunology.

2019 marks the 7th year of the AAAAI Foundation and Donald Y. M. Leung, MD, PhD, FAAAAI-JACI Lecture: Investing Together in Our Future award. It will be presented in Plenary Session 4101: Atopic Dermatitis: Bench to Bedside and Back on Monday, February 25, 2019: 8:15 AM - 9:45 AM, Moscone Center South, Hall A

AAAAI Foundation and Donald Y. M. Leung, MD, PhD, FAAAAI- JACI Lecture: Investing Together in Our Future - Dr. Lisa A. Beck, MD, FAAAAI



Dr. Beck is driven by a passion to improve the lives of people who suffer from life-altering skin diseases, dedicating more than 25 years to the quest for safe, effective treatments for patients with atopic dermatitis (or eczema) and chronic urticaria (or hives).

Internationally recognized as an eczema expert, Beck's research was instrumental in the development of the first biologic drug called dupilumab (or Dupixent) for the treatment of adults with moderate to severe eczema. She was the lead author of a 2014 *New England Journal of Medicine* paper that set the stage for the FDA approval of this drug in March 2017.

She is currently involved in an NIH-funded study to determine why certain atopic dermatitis patients are susceptible to widespread skin infections with herpes simplex virus or the bacteria, *Staphylococcus aureus*. Dr. Beck received her undergraduate degree from Mount Holyoke College and her medical degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Dr. Beck is a Tenured Professor of Dermatology, with secondary appointments in Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology (Medicine) and Pathology. She has had a longstanding interest in characterizing cutaneous allergic inflammation with a specific focus on Atopic Dermatitis (or eczema). Her laboratory was the first to demonstrate that the activation status of white blood cells or leukocytes affected their in vivo responsiveness to naturally occurring chemotactic proteins called chemokines. Her laboratory observed that these chemokines also act on structural cells, and that they may function as mediators of fibrosis and/or epithelial barrier repair.

More recently, her laboratory has been exploring the dynamic interaction between the skin barrier and the innate and adaptive immune systems. She was the first to describe and characterize epidermal tight junction (TJ) defects in atopic dermatitis. Ongoing studies are evaluating whether these defects develop as a consequence of tissue inflammation or the altered microbial flora (e.g. skin bacterial populations), which is observed in almost all AD subjects. Her laboratory has found that several innate immune pathways as well as specific adaptive immune pathways can enhance epidermal TJ function. A final focus of the laboratory is studying the role that the skin epithelium plays in allergen sensitization and vaccination effectiveness. Dr. Beck's clinical and laboratory work has been supported by grants from the National Eczema Association, NIH, Dermatology Foundation, and from biotech/pharmaceutical companies. She has been co-Principal Investigator of the NIH/NIAID-funded Atopic Dermatitis Research Network (ADRN) since 2004, which has amassed the largest registry of deeply phenotyped Atopic Dermatitis subjects in the world.