Leonard Bernstein, MD FAAAAI, served as president of the AAAAI (then known as the American Academy of Allergy) in 1982.

He was admired for his encyclopedic knowledge of the field of allergy and asthma, and was a founding member of the committee that conceived and wrote the first practice parameters for our specialty.

I. Leonard was an expert in environmental and occupational allergies, and published extensively. He was devoted to training future allergists, and developed a Fellowship program at the University of Cincinnati through which he trained more than 60 physicians.

Dr. Bernstein’s contributions to our specialty were vast, and he especially valued good research done in the interest of improving outcomes for our patients and growing the field of Allergy/Immunology.

The AAAAI Foundation exists to fund research that leads to the prevention and cure of asthma and allergic and immunologic disease, which was a cause near and dear to his heart.

2018 marks the 2nd year of the AAAAI Foundation and I. Leonard Bernstein, MD FAAAAI Memorial Lectureship. It will be presented in Presidential Plenary Session 1601: Environmental Impacts on Asthma: Biology to Intervention on Friday, March 2, 2018: 2:15 to 3:45pm, Convention Center, South Concourse, Level 1, South Hall A1.
Dr. David Blaine Peden is the Harry S. Andrews Professor of Pediatrics, Medicine and Microbiology/Immunology, Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology, Senior Associate Dean for Translational Research, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Allergy, Immunology, Rheumatology & Infectious Disease, and Director, Center for Environmental Medicine, Asthma & Lung Biology and Interim Director Institute for the Environment at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Peden received his Doctor of Medicine and Master of Science in Pharmacology and Toxicology degrees from West Virginia University and subsequently received training in Pediatrics at West Virginia University Medical Center. His fellowship training in allergy and immunology was completed at the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Peden is board certified in pediatrics, allergy and immunology and clinical laboratory immunology. He sees patients with a wide range of allergic and immunologic disorders at the UNC Pediatric Allergy Clinic at Rex Hospital and at the North Carolina Children’s Hospital.

Dr. Peden is currently the principal investigator for over $2.2 million of grant funded research. He conducts and oversees a number of clinical investigations examining the effect of challenge and exposure to a number of environmental agents, including ozone, endotoxin, diesel exhaust and other particulates. Dr. Peden’s group has extensive expertise in evaluating persons for asthma, allergies and lung disease, using spirometry, methacholine challenge, analysis of induced sputum and allergen skin testing.

As the leader of the Team Science Service, he works to identify research themes that require multi-disciplinary teams, develop programming the facilitate team development, and works to identify new processes to facilitate research team function and productivity. Additionally, he leads the UNC precision medicine effort, interfacing with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research on this issue as well as data and environmental initiatives across the UNC system.

Examples of his own team science research experience includes roles as the primary medical consultant to the NCATS funded “Carolina Biomedical Data Translator” project (which is part of the NCATS Biomedical Data Translator consortium) and as Medical Director of the NSF Nanosystems Engineering Research Center for Advanced Self-Sustaining Integrated Sensor Technologies (ASSIST) based at NCSU, which is focused on developed and testing wearable sensors for physiologic and environmental exposure data.

Dr. Peden is also a liaison between NC TraCS and the launch of the newly commissioned UNC Children’s Research Institute as well as NC TraCS and the Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility of the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. He also serves on several EPA pollutant advisory committees and a member of the FDA Allergenic Products Advisory Committee.

Dr. Peden has received a number of clinical awards and honors including being President, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, 2017-2018; Presidential Track Offices: Secretary/Treasurer, 2015-2016; President Elect, 2016-2017, President, 2017-2018; and Past President, 2017-2018. He has been on the US News and World Report Top Doctors for Allergy and Immunology, 2012-date and on the Best Doctors listing for Allergy and Immunology, 2007-date.