

AAAAI Foundation and I. Leonard Bernstein, MD FAAAAI Memorial Lectureship



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.

2017 marks the 1st year of the AAAAI Foundation and I. Leonard Bernstein, MD FAAAAI Memorial Lectureship. It will be presented in Symposium Session 4307: Emerging and Current Diagnostics and Therapies for Eosinophilic Esophagitis on Monday, March 6, 2017: 10:45 am to 12:00 pm, GWCC, Thomas B. Murphy Ballroom 2.

AAAAI Foundation and I. Leonard Bernstein, MD FAAAAI Memorial Lectureship – Amal Assa’ad, MD FAAAAI



Amal Assa’ad, MD is Professor of Pediatrics, Director of Clinical Services, Associate Director of the Division of Allergy and Immunology and Director of the FARE Clinical Center of Excellence in Food Allergy at Cincinnati Children Hospital Medical Center.

She graduated summa cum laude from the American College for Girls, and obtained her MD and master’s with Honors from Ain Shams Medical School in Cairo, Egypt. She completed her Internal Medicine/Pediatrics residency at Michigan State and Wright State Universities.

In 1992, she became a fellow at the University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center combined Allergy and Immunology Fellowship Program, directed by Michelle Lierl, MD.

Among her fellowship mentors were Leonard I. Bernstein, MD and his sons David Bernstein, MD and Jonathan Bernstein, MD and Thomas Fischer, MD. Upon her graduation, Dr. Assa’ad directed the A/I fellowship from 1996-2012. She worked with the fellowship Co-director, Dr. David Bernstein, to expand the breadth and depth of the fellowship and to procure in 2004 an NIH funded T-32 grant, currently in its third renewal, to support A/I fellows in become physician scientists.

Inspired by the pioneering, tireless, and widely impactful work of her mentor, Dr. Leonard Bernstein, Dr. Assa’ad has served the specialty of A/I and the AAAAI by innovative research, contributions to guidelines and active leadership within the organization. She has conducted and published ground breaking research in the areas of eosinophilic esophagitis and food allergy, in addition to other areas of A/I resulting in 75 publications including peer-reviewed original research, editorials and book chapters.

She is a member of the NIAID Clinical Guideline Expert Panel on Food Allergy and the Addendum to the Guidelines and has contributed to the WAO and EAACI guidelines in food allergy. Her service to the AAAAI has included chairing the Adverse Food Reactions Committee and the Program Directors Assembly and serving as a Director-At-Large on the Board of Directors.

She has contributed yearly to the AAAAI National Meeting with programming for the symposia and plenary sessions and as a captivating speaker. She has been a mentor for women in the AAAAI and to A/I fellows and residents interested in the specialty. She has received recognition by the 2005 AAAAI Women in Allergy Award. Dr. Assa’ad is a reputable clinician who centers her care on the patients and their families. She is listed among the Best Doctors of America and Cincinnati.