The AAAAI Foundation and William T. Shearer and Lynn Des Prez Lecture: Investing Together in Our Future

Dr. Shearer is Professor of Pediatrics and Immunology at Baylor College of Medicine, and the former Chief of the Allergy and Immunology Service at Texas Children’s Hospital. He graduated from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis in 1970. He received his clinical training in pediatrics, allergy and immunology at the Washington University’s affiliated hospitals, St. Louis Children’s Hospital, and Barnes Hospital.

He received a Research Scholar Award from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and a Faculty Research Award from the American Cancer Society for his early research work. He joined the faculty of Washington University in 1974 and was promoted to professor in 1978 prior to moving to Baylor College of Medicine.

In 1981 he was elected to membership in the American Society for Clinical Investigation and received the Distinguished Teacher Award in 1984 from Baylor College of Medicine. Washington University conferred its Alumni Achievement Award on Dr. Shearer in 2000, the Houston Regional Cabinet Award in 2003, and in 2008 appointed him an Ethan A.H. Shepley Trustee of the Washington University Board of Trustees and member of the School of Medicine National Council at Washington University. In 2008 he was elected to the Association of American Physicians, Chair of the Program Directors Assembly (1986-1991), Vice-President of the ACGME Residency and Review Committee for Allergy and Immunology (1996-2001).

Dr. Shearer has been active in professional and clinical immunology organizations at the national level for many years, serving as Director and Chair of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology (1990-1995); Director of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (1992-2002); Chair of the Academy’s Clinical and Laboratory Immunology Committee which published the Core Content Outline for Clinical and Laboratory Immunology and the Practice Parameters for the Diagnosis and Management of Immunodeficiency; and member and Associate Editor of the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (2000-2015). He has been elected Councilor (1997-2001) and President of the Clinical Immunology Society (2001-2002). For editing the Primer on Allergy and Immunologic Diseases 5th edition, he was given the Special Recognition Award of the Academy in 2004. In 2005, he received the Arnold J. Rudolph - Baylor Pediatric Award for Lifetime Excellence in Teaching.

Lynn Des Prez is a Philadelphia native and served as the Administrative Director of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology for 31 years following an economic and legal background. She and Bill shared a long-distance marriage until 2006, when she moved to Houston. She continues her involvement with allergy and immunology through Bill’s many activities. She shares his philanthropic efforts via the ARTtrust™ and a Diversity Scholarship at Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine. She functioned as 2011-2012 President of the AAAAI Associates in raising scholarship and asthma camp funds. In 1997 she received the AAAAI Distinguished Layperson Award. In 2002 she received the ACAAI Distinguished Service Award. She has served professional and civic associations, was a church elder, and holds office on a prison ministry and Houston’s Etoffe Litteraire. She is interested in continuing education, health, finance, technology, and musical theatre. Bill’s 7 children and 7 grandchildren keep them very busy.

The AAAAI Foundation and William T. Shearer and Lynn Des Prez Lecture: Investing Together in Our Future Lecturer – Hal Hoffman, MD FAAAAI

Dr. Hoffman is Professor and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Allergy, Immunology, and Rheumatology at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD) and Rady Children’s Hospital of San Diego.

Dr. Hoffman is a second-generation allergist as the son of Dr. Leonard Hoffman of Houston, Texas. He graduated from the University of Texas Medical Branch and completed residency in pediatrics at the Medical University of South Carolina.

He did fellowship training in allergy and immunology at UCSD and joined the faculty in 1998. He practices at Rady Children’s Hospital and specializes in the care of children with rare inflammatory and immunologic disorders.

He was awarded the AAAAI ERT Young Investigator Award in 1998. He is a member of the American Society of Clinical Investigators and Society for Pediatric Research and a fellow of the AAAAI. He has published more than 100 papers and chapters and given invited lectures in more than 17 countries.

Dr. Hoffman’s main research interests are genetics and inflammation and he has used a combination of positional cloning of human disease genes and mouse transgenic technology to identify the function of genes involved in rare human diseases. His group has identified 5 rare disease genes using a variety of genetic techniques and has developed 7 useful mouse models of rare diseases.

His identification of mutations in the NRLP3 gene as the cause of the cryopyrin associated periodic syndromes has led to a better understanding of immune system function and successful treatment of patients.