

The Isil Berat Barlan Memorial Lectureship



Professor Dr. Işıl Berat Barlan (1958-2015) was born in Trabzon, Turkey. She attended Robert College in Istanbul and received her medical degree from Istanbul University Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Medicine. She completed her residency in Pediatrics at Marmara University Faculty of Medicine, Istanbul.

She trained in Allergy and Immunology first with Dr. Müjdat Başaran at Marmara University and later with Dr. Raif Geha at the Boston Children's Hospital. She went on to become the Chair of Pediatrics and the Chief of the Division of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology at Marmara University.

Professor Barlan was a visionary physician-scientist who made a profound impact on the science and health care delivery in Allergy and Immunology in Turkey and beyond. She was a highly productive investigator, with more than 120 peer-reviewed papers in international and national Journals. Critically, she engaged in building a research and academic infrastructure in Allergy and Immunology in Turkey, established enduring international collaborations and mentored a large number of investigators and practitioners in the field.

Professor Barlan has made numerous key contributions to the field of Allergy and Immunology at large. In a series of highly cited papers, she established the efficacy of pharmacotherapy with intranasal steroids in allergic rhinitis and rhinosinusitis, and that of sublingual immunotherapy for allergic upper airway disease and asthma.

She also pioneered combination subcutaneous and sublingual immunotherapy for allergic asthma. Professor Barlan made critical contributions in the field of primary immunodeficiencies (PID). Professor Barlan actively engaged in national and international collaborations on the investigation, diagnosis and management of primary immunodeficiency diseases. She played a critical role in studies that led to the identification of DOCK8 deficiency as the underlying cause of the autosomal recessive form of the hyper IgE syndrome as well as other novel immunodeficiencies.

The ambitious scope of Professor Barlan's studies was enabled by her creation of productive research and training programs and community outreach efforts. She established the first Jeffrey Modell Center for Primary Immunodeficiency and the first International Patient Organization for Primary Immunodeficiencies chapter in Turkey, both placed at Marmara University. A critical achievement of Dr. Barlan was her training of a large number of academic physician-scientists in Allergy/Immunology, with many of her trainees assuming leadership positions in Turkey and abroad. Professor Barlan had a particular interest in women advancement in science, an issue that she strongly advocated for in both national and international forums. She trained several women physician-scientists, who went on to lead their own programs in Allergy and Immunology.

Professor Barlan was a member of the AAAAI, and an active participant and speaker at its annual meetings. She served on the executive committee of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI). She was the recipient of a number of awards, including the highly prestigious Sedat Simavi Prize in Turkey for her scientific contributions in the field of immunotherapy, as well as multiple prizes by the Turkish Society of Pediatrics, Marmara University Medical Faculty and Istanbul Provincial Directorate for her medical research and clinical excellence.

2018 marks the 2nd year of the Isil Berat Barlan Memorial Lectureship. It will be presented in Symposium Session 2302: World Allergy Forum: New Approaches for the Optimal Management of Angioedema, Saturday, March 3, 2018: 10:45 am to 12:00 pm, Convention Center, S310GH.

The Isil Berat Barlan Memorial Lectureship – Marcus Maurer, MD



Marcus Maurer is Professor of Dermatology and Allergy at the Allergie-Centrum-Charité, Department of Dermatology and Allergy, Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany.

He is also the Director of Research at the Department of Dermatology and Allergy, Associate Director of the Allergie-Centrum-Charité, and Head of the Specialty Clinics for angioedema, hereditary angioedema, urticaria, mastocytosis, pruritus, autoinflammatory disorders and the Dermatological Allergology Laboratory.

He trained in dermatology and allergology in Berlin and Mainz, and in experimental pathology at the Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston from 1995 to 1998 and attained his board certification for dermatology in 2000 and allergology in 2003. His habilitation (“Why do we have mast cells?”) was undertaken at the University of Mainz in 2003.

Professor Maurer’s research focuses on physiological and pathological functions of mast cells. He has made numerous important contributions to the understanding of the role of mast cells in the pathogenesis of chronic inflammatory disorders as well as in the protection from infections. His clinical emphasis is on urticaria, mastocytosis, angioedema, hereditary angioedema, pruritus, and auto-inflammatory syndromes.

Lately, Professor Maurer’s team has also followed translational approaches using human in vivo and ex vivo models to investigate the functions of human mast cells, mostly skin mast cells. These investigations have led, among others, to the development of the concept of autoallergy in chronic urticaria, which was critical for the clinical testing and develop of anti-IgE as a novel treatment option in chronic spontaneous urticaria, a treatment that was licensed for the use in this disease in 2014.

Professor Maurer’s team, over the past years, built national reference centres for the investigation and treatment of urticaria, mastocytosis, hereditary angioedema, angioedema and other mast cell-driven diseases, and more than 30 randomized controlled trials (phase I through IV) were performed by him and his team since 2011.

Professor Maurer is the author of more than 415 publications in peer reviewed journals including Nature and the New England Journal of Medicine (>21,700 citations, h-index: 76).