

## The John E. Salvaggio Memorial Lectureship



Dr. John E. Salvaggio was born in New Orleans where he remained for most of his life. He obtained his M.D. from Louisiana State University School of Medicine in 1957 and did his internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Charity Hospital in New Orleans.

Following a fellowship in Allergy with Dr. Francis Lowell at the Massachusetts General Hospital, he returned to LSU Medical School in 1964 as an Assistant Professor to establish an allergy and clinical immunology program. He advanced to the rank of Professor of Medicine and Director of Interdisciplinary Program in Immunology.

After a sabbatical year in the Clinical Immunology Division in the University of Colorado in 1974 he received an NIH Career Investigator Award and became Henderson Professor of Medicine and Director of Clinical Immunology Division at Tulane University School of Medicine. In 1982 he was appointed Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Tulane and in 1989 became Vice Chancellor for Research where he remained until his untimely death.

He served on the Board of Governors of the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Medical Specialties; as president of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology from 1975 to 1979, he played a major role in formulating and developing the standards and credentials during the board's formative years. He also served on the Executive Committee of the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology and was president of the Academy from 1985 to 1986.

He was a member of a number of NIH and federal grant study sections and regulatory committees, the Pulmonary Diseases Advisory Committee, the NIAID Directors' Advisory Committee, and the FDA Advisory Committee on Allergenic Products of the Bureau of Biologics. He headed several task forces, including the NIAID Task Force on Occupational and Environmental Lung Diseases. He received numerous professional honors including the William Peck National Scientific Research Award, the Henry Hyde Salter Distinguished Clinical Award of the International Association of Clinical Immunology, the University of Padova Medallion, the Hal Davidson Award for Excellence in Medical Teaching and the Distinguished Service Award from the AAAAI.

Dr. Salvaggio's main research interests related to the mechanisms and pathogenesis of occupational and environmental pulmonary disease induced by organic dust and simple chemicals. He authored or co-authored more than 400 original scientific articles, books and chapters. He also wrote the book *New Orleans Charity Hospital: A Story of Physicians, Politics and Poverty*. Despite his many career accomplishments, he will always be remembered for his human qualities. He personified the meaning of the word friendship, for his unique quality of seeing the good in everyone and was always ready to help a friend in need.

**2017 marks the 16<sup>th</sup> year of the John E. Salvaggio Memorial Lectureship. It will be presented at Symposium Session 4302: Immunology of Asthma Phenotypes on Monday, March 6, 2017: 10:45 am to 12:00 pm, GWCC, Rooms B312-B313.**

## The John E. Salvaggio Memorial Lectureship – Peter Heymann, MD



Peter W. Heymann, M.D. is Professor of Pediatrics and the Director of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology at the University of Virginia.

In addition to his publications and grants focused on rhinovirus and asthma, he has served on NIH study sections devoted to asthma and respiratory tract pathogens and was Chair of the Microbes in Allergy and Asthma Committee, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, from 2012 to 2014.

His research interests have focused on the relationship between viral infections and allergic inflammation in the pathogenesis of asthma exacerbations affecting children and young adults. These studies were initiated in the 1990's and included cross-sectional

investigations of children treated for acute wheezing in the hospital and emergency room (ER), initially in Virginia and more recently in Costa Rica.

The results from these investigations have shown that virus-induced wheezing is most common in the pediatric population and is strongly associated with infections caused by rhinovirus (RV), especially after three years of age (*Amer J Resp Crit Care Med.* 1999; 159:785-790; *J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2004; 114:239-247).

Importantly, these investigations have shown that over 80% of children treated for RV-induced wheezing in the hospital or ER are atopic with compelling evidence indicating that the combination of an RV infection and allergen-induced airway inflammation act synergistically to provoke an attack of asthma (*Pediatr Infect Dis J.* 2005; 24:S217-222). Moreover, the risk for wheezing induced by RV increases significantly in asthmatic children who have high titers of allergen specific IgE antibody in their serum (e.g., to dust mite allergen) based on studies from Costa Rica (*J Allergy Clin Immunol* June, 2012; 129: 1499-1505).

Additionally, Dr. Heymann's group has been using the experimental RV infection model, combined with studies in the ER, to explore mechanisms involved in the asthmatic response to RV in greater detail (*J Allergy Clin Immunol.* 2003;111:1008-1016; *Am J Crit Care Med* 2014; 189: 532-9).

The RV challenge study design has been most useful in allowing investigators to explore mechanisms and test hypotheses in a time-sequence manner following virus inoculation to examine early innate events and evaluate pathogenic consequences during peak symptoms and symptom resolution which cannot be accomplished in cross-sectional or longitudinal studies.

Currently, Dr. Heymann and collaborators at the University of Virginia are using the experimental RV challenge model in NIH funded studies to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how allergic inflammation influences the immune response to RV at the cellular and molecular level in the asthmatic host. The main objective is to use the results to guide current therapies and the development of new medications to treat asthma exacerbations during childhood.