

The Robert G. Townley Memorial Lectureship



Following completion of residency in Internal Medicine and Fellowship in Allergy Asthma and Immunology in Boston, MA, Dr. Robert G. Townley joined the faculty of Medicine and was Assistant Chief, Department of Asthma-Allergy, National Jewish Hospital, located in Denver, CO.

Dr. Townley subsequently returned to Creighton University in Omaha, NE and started an allergy asthma and immunology division in the department of medicine and initiated their allergy fellowship training program.

Dr. Townley has helped train more than 50 fellows in allergy as well as 32 postdoctoral fellows from Japan, who had already finished their clinical training in allergy. He has helped initiate and carry out studies both in bench and animal research in allergy/immunology as well as clinical trials. His preclinical and clinical studies focused on airway hyperresponsiveness and inflammation.

Five students have obtained their PhD with the allergy division. He has helped editor co-edit 3 textbooks pertaining to asthma and inflammation, airway smooth muscle, and Immunopharmacology of allergic diseases. He had also been successful in obtaining 3 NIH RO1 grants and an Allergic Disease Centre Grant.

Dr. Townley's allergy program was one of the clinical sites involved in the study of the IL-13 antagonist Lebrikizumab in the treatment in adults with asthma. This study was supported by Genentec and showed that the asthma subjects with high levels of the Periostin gene demonstrated significantly greater improvement in their FEV1 in those subjects treated with Lebrikizumab. (Corren, J., R.F. Lemanske et al 2011. Lebrikizumab treatment in adults with asthma. N. Engl. J. Med).

Sadly, with Dr. Townley's passing on Friday, September 9, 2016, this lectureship has been renamed the Robert G. Townley Memorial Lectureship. The lectureship will help to preserve the memory of Dr. Townley and all his wonderful accomplishments and contributions during his lifetime.

2017 marks the 3rd year of the Robert G. Townley Lectureship. It will be presented in Symposium Session 3307: Primary and Secondary Prevention of Asthma: Targeting Viruses, Atopy and the Environment on Sunday, March 5, 2017: 10:45 am to 12:00 pm, GWCC, Rooms B312-B313.

The Robert G. Townley Memorial Lectureship - Wanda Phipatanakul, MD MS FAAAAI



Dr. Wanda Phipatanakul, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and Director/Principal Investigator (PI) of the NIH funded Asthma/Allergy Clinical Research Center at Boston Children's Hospital received her medical degree at Loma Linda University in California. She did her pediatric residency Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and allergy fellowship at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, before taking a faculty position at Boston Children's Hospital Harvard.

She then received a Masters in Clinical Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Phipatanakul leads her own independently NIH funded school and home-based community inner-city asthma studies and is Boston Pediatric PI of NIH funded asthma clinical research networks (NHLBI AsthmaNet Clinical Research Network and the NHLBI Severe Asthma Research Program) tackling practice management and scientific knowledge gaps.

She also utilizes the knowledge from these clinical research studies to provide evidence-based care for her patients, whom she sees primarily at Boston Children's Hospital. Her research interests also include early interventions in young children, particularly prevention, immunologic/biologics, and other interventions targeted towards the allergic, asthma pathway. She will be leading in the near future a 7 year, multi-center NIH/NIAID asthma prevention grant evaluating anti-IgE therapy in at risk toddlers to prevent asthma, allergies, food allergies and the entire allergic/atopic march, and leads the Boston Site on another NHLBI multi-center primary prevention study utilizing killed bacterial lysate in babies.

She was also recently awarded as Boston site PI on validation instruments in asthma, food allergy, atopic dermatitis, and chronic diseases. Dr. Phipatanakul's long-standing relationship with community, comprehensively evaluating the role of school-specific exposures and asthma, allergies, and food allergies allows her to work towards incorporating public policy and school-based asthma/allergy management initiatives. She was recently awarded the AAAAI/ALA Respiratory Diseases Faculty Award.

She has published over 150 articles in various scientific journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA, JAMA pediatrics, Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology In Practice, and the American Journal of Respiratory Critical Medicine. She leads the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) Environmental Occupational Respiratory Disorders Interest Section and the AAAAI Interest Section Coordinating Committee.

Her main passion is teaching and mentoring, and she was awarded mentoring awards from the Thai Association Physician Foundation, Harvard Medical School, the Pediatric Academic Society, and holds a mid-career NIH/NIAID mentoring award to support her teaching and mentoring efforts. She serves as primary mentor for 4 NIAID K-23, 1 NIEHS K-23, and 2 K12 junior faculty career development awardees, one NIAID Diversity supplement mentee, 2 competitively awarded Public Health Services T32 trainees, and 1 Patient Safety Quality fellowship trainee.