

## **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.

**2018 marks the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the Robert G. Townley Lectureship. It will be presented in Symposium Session 2306: NHLBI's AsthmaNet Clinical Trial Results 2018 on Saturday, March 3, 2018: 10:45 am to 12:00 pm, Convention Center, South Concourse, Level 3, S330GH**

## **The Robert G. Townley Memorial Lectureship - Avraham Beigelman, MD MSCI FAAAAI**



Dr. Beigelman is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Pediatrics Allergy, Immunology and Pulmonary Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis.

Dr. Beigelman's research interests focus on: (1) The role of early life infections in the inception of childhood asthma; (2) Asthma prevention approaches; (3) Childhood asthma management.

He is the PI of a NIH-funded study aiming to prevent recurrent wheezing following severe RSV bronchiolitis, and also an investigator and a steering committee member of multiple NIH-funded asthma research networks, such as: AsthmaNet and the Inner-City-Asthma Consortium.