

## The Isil Berat Barlan Memorial Lectureship (3rd year)

Monday, February 26, 2024

4101 New Insights into Development and Treatment of Asthma  
Convention Center, Level 2, Hall E, 9:30-11:00 AM

**Lecturer: Ayobami Akenroye, MD, MPH**

Pharmacoequity in Eligibility for Biologics in Patient in Allergic Disease

### Isil Berat Barlan, MD



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.

### **Ayobami Akenroye, MD, MPH**



Dr. Ayobami Akenroye is a Physician-Scientist in the Division of Allergy & Clinical Immunology at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She emigrated to the US from Nigeria in 2010, after completion of medical school, to pursue a Master's in Public Health from Harvard School of Public Health. Thereafter, she completed internal medicine residency at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine- Jacobi program in Bronx, NY, and Allergy/Immunology fellowship at Johns Hopkins University. In addition to being an Allergist, Dr. Akenroye is an Epidemiologist and completed a PhD in Epidemiology from Johns Hopkins. Her research is

focused on pharmacoepidemiology which includes the study of drug utilization, safety, and effectiveness. Specifically, she is interested in the comparative effectiveness, real world safety, and utilization of monoclonal antibodies approved for the treatment of asthma and other allergic diseases. She aims to provide evidence so that the right patient is matched to the right biologic. This work has extended to include the use of multi-omics strategies in identifying predictors of response to monoclonal antibodies. She has received numerous grant awards for her work including a NIH K99/R00 Career Transition Award, the ALA/ATS/CHEST Foundation award for research equity, and the Harvard Medical School Diversity Inclusion Community Partnership Fellowship Award. She continues to care for patients with asthma and allergic conditions and is actively engaged in numerous ongoing research projects.