

# The Isil Berat Barlan Memorial Lectureship

The AAAAI Foundation and Isil Berat Barlan Memorial Lectureship will be presented by Kirsi M. Jarvinen-Seppo, MD PhD FAAAAI in plenary 4101 An Ounce of Prevention in Convention Center, North Building, Lower Level, Hall 6 on Monday, February 28 at 8:50 am

## Isil Berat Barlan, MD



Professor Dr. Işil 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.

**Kirsi M. Jarvinen-Seppo, MD PhD FAAAAI**



Dr. Järvinen-Seppo is an allergist-immunologist who received her M.D. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Helsinki, Finland. She is currently an Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology, the Chief of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology and Director of the Center for Food Allergy at the Golisano Children's Hospital, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester, NY. Her clinical interest lies in all aspects of food allergy. Utilizing human cohorts and tissue culture models, her research program, which is funded through the NIH and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is studying the role of early environmental exposures, including human milk components in the establishment of microbiome and infant immune system, tolerance and development of allergic diseases. She serves as a PI on a birth cohort assessing development of the mucosal and systemic immunity and the microbiome in the Old Order Mennonites and Rochester families with different lifestyles at different risk for allergic diseases.