

[AAAAI Foundation and John W. Yunginger, MD FAAAAI Memorial Lectureship \(4th Year\)](#)

Saturday, February 24, 2024

3521 National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID): Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and Asthma: Associations, Mechanisms and the Potential Impact of Vaccines
Convention Center, Level 3, Ballroom A, 12:30-1:30 PM

Lecturer: Stephania Cormier, PhD

Mechanisms Between RSV Infection and Asthma

John W. Yunginger, MD FAAAAI



The AAAAI Foundation is honored to commemorate the life and work of a great teacher, physician and researcher who made significant contributions to the allergy/immunology specialty with the creation of the John W. Yunginger MD FAAAAI Memorial Lectureship.

Dr. John Wallace Yunginger, known to colleagues as JY, was a physician-scientist who spent his career on staff at the Mayo Clinic (1973-2001). He was Board Certified by the American Board of Pediatrics (1969) and the American Board of Allergy and Immunology (1977). He served on numerous committees, both at Mayo and in national professional organizations.

Dr. Yunginger was a 1960 graduate of Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and of Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1964. He served his Internship at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pennsylvania from 1964-1965 and his Residency in pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia from 1965-1966 and at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA from 1966-1967. He went on to complete a Fellowship in allergy/immunology at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine. He was a veteran of the US Air Force, proudly serving as a Pediatrician on the Chanute AFB in Illinois.

Dr. Yunginger was a recognized authority on food, latex and insect allergies. He won numerous honors and awards for his work, both from Mayo and from national medical organizations. In 2001, he received the Distinguished Clinician Award from the AAAAI in honor of significant contributions to the field of allergy and clinical immunology. He authored 167 articles and 63 book chapters on various aspects of allergy and immunology. JY served twenty-seven years as director and then as President of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology, retiring in 2009.

Dr. Yunginger was born October 28, 1938 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania the only child of Lewis and Ethel (Wallace) Yunginger. On August 12, 1967, he married Jane Zubler in

Farmers Mills, Pennsylvania. He is remembered as bringing grace, kindness and humility to his patients and colleagues, as well as a sense of humor, a boisterous laugh, and a twinkle in his eye.

Stephania Cormier, PhD



Dr. Cormier received her Honors Baccalaureate in biology and chemistry from University of Southwestern Louisiana, now University of Louisiana at Lafayette, in 1991. After receiving her PhD from LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans in 1997, she started her career as a postdoctoral fellow at the Mayo Clinic where she focused her research on the pathogenesis of asthma before becoming an assistant professor in the LSU Department of Biological Sciences. Cormier then worked at the pediatric department in the Division of Infectious Disease at University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center, where

she received tenure and eventually became the Associate Vice Chancellor of Research with a focus on global partnerships. Cormier returned to LSU in 2017 where she leads the LSU Superfund Research Center, studying the respiratory impacts of exposure to particulate matter containing environmentally persistent free radicals. Cormier's other research interests are in understanding how respiratory infection alters the developing lung and immune systems, predisposing to asthma. She holds the Wiener Endowed Chair and is Professor of Biological Sciences (Louisiana State University, LSU), Professor of Respiratory Immunology and Toxicology (Pennington Biomedical Research Center), and Honorary Professor of Child Health Research (University of Queensland, Australia). She is a world-renowned expert with over 20 years of experience in the field of pulmonary immunology, focusing on the role of age and the environment in immunity. She has had continuous National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding since 2006, with over \$32.5 million in total funding. She serves as Director of the LSU Superfund Research Program, a large inter-disciplinary research center, and is PI on two NIH grants examining early life programming of severe respiratory syncytial virus infection, asthma, and susceptibility to asthma in human infants. Dr. Cormier is Associate Vice President of the Office of Research & Economic Development (ORED), presiding over the STEM fields. In this role, she oversees the administration of shared instrument facilities and other STEM-related centers and institutes that report to ORED. Dr. Cormier graduated with an Honors Baccalaureate in biology and chemistry from the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now the University of Louisiana) and a PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans.