The Robert A. Cooke Memorial Lectureship

The Robert A. Cooke Memorial Lectureship will be presented by Robert Anthony, PhD in plenary 3101 Anaphylaxis: Novel Mechanisms and Emerging Therapeutic Interventions in Convention Center, North Building, Lower Level, Hall 6 on Sunday, February 27 at 8:50 am

Robert A. Cooke, MD

Robert Anderson Cooke, MD was born in Holmdel, New Jersey in 1880, a descendant of three generations of physicians. He received his M.D. from Columbia University in 1904 and subsequently interned at Presbyterian Hospital. It was his own allergy to stable dusts, pollens and later horses that led him into this particular field. As an intern, he nearly died from an anaphylactic shock induced by an injection of diphtheria antitoxin.

In 1919, he founded the first allergy clinic which was then located at New York Hospital and was later moved to Roosevelt Hospital in June 1932. He was a founder of one of the two parent societies of the American Academy of Allergy in 1925 (also serving as the first President) and the New York Allergy Society in 1937. Additionally, he was the founding editor of the Journal of Allergy (now the JACI) in 1929. Throughout his medical life, he was primarily interested in the study and treatment of allergic diseases and is generally considered the father of allergy as a medical specialty. He was the author of approximately 200 scientific papers, most of which dealt with immunologic and allergic diseases. By the time he died in 1960, his influence on the teaching and practice of allergy was being furthered by the more than fifty residents and fellows he trained.

His work included not only the practical treatment of patients, but numerous fundamental contributions to the immunology of allergy. Among his outstanding contributions were studies of heredity in asthma and hay fever (1914), recognition of house dust as an allergen (1921), the immunologic relationship of naturally acquired and artificially induced sensitization (1929), demonstration of blocking antibody developed as a result of injection treatment (1935) and observations regarding skin sensitizing antibody.

The Alumni of the R. A. Cooke Institute of Allergy at St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital Center are privileged to sponsor this lectureship which the AAAAI has established in perpetuity in the memory of an inspiring physician who has played a critical role in the development of the medical specialty of allergy and immunology.
Robert Anthony, PhD

The Anthony lab studies the role and regulation of glycosylation to arguably the two most clinically relevant antibody classes, IgG and IgE. His group has demonstrated surprising, essential, and divergent roles for glycans decorating IgE and IgG, and developed soluble glycosylation enzymes that modulate antibody glycosylation in vivo. Robert Anthony is an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School, Associate Investigator at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Principal Investigator at the Center for Immunology and Inflammatory Diseases. Robert attended Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. As a graduate student, Robert trained in immunoparasitology in the laboratories of William Gause and Joseph Urban (USDA). For his postdoctoral training, he moved to New York City to join the laboratory of Jeffrey Ravetch at the Rockefeller University. There, Robert studied the paradoxical anti-inflammatory activity of IgG. His work in this area is the foundation for three alternative high dose intravenous immunoglobulin therapeutics in various stages of development. He has received several awards for his work, including the MGH Research Scholars Award, MGH Martin Prize in Fundamental Research, MGH DOM Krane Award for Excellent Junior Investigators, MGH Howard M. Goodman Endowed Fellowship, NIH New Innovator Award, Irvington Institute Fellowship, and an H.M. Jackson Foundation Graduate Student Fellowship.