

The Robert A. Cooke Memorial Lectureship



Robert Anderson Cooke, M.D., 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 its first President) and the New York Allergy Society in 1937. In addition, 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.

This is the 56th Cooke lecture presented at an AAAAI Annual Meeting. It will be presented in Symposium Session 4305: Advances in Aeroallergen Immunotherapy on Monday, March 5, 2018: 10:45 am to 12:00 pm, Convention Center, South Concourse, Level 3, S330GH.

The Robert A. Cooke Memorial Lecturer – Stephen R. Durham, MA MD FRCP



Stephen Durham is Head of Allergy and Clinical Immunology at National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London and Professor of Allergy and Respiratory Medicine at Royal Brompton Hospital.

He trained at Downing College Cambridge and Guy's Hospital London qualifying in 1976. After posts in internal medicine in London and Cambridge he undertook research under Professor Barry Kay leading to his Doctorate in Medicine (MD) entitled 'Immunologic Studies in Late Asthmatic Responses'.

He completed his higher specialist training in respiratory medicine at Churchill and John Radcliffe Hospitals in Oxford before returning to the Brompton and his current post in 1988.

Dr. Durham leads a general allergy and asthma clinic and a specialist combined medical/surgical rhinology clinic. His research has been in basic mechanisms of allergic rhinitis and asthma, local IgE regulation and translational studies and clinical trials of allergen immunotherapy.

He is a Past President of the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology. He is a member of the Steering Committee of the Immune Tolerance Network, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, USA and chairs their Allergy Assessment Group.