

The Robert G. Townley Memorial Lectureship

The Robert G. Townley Memorial Lectureship will be presented by Barney S. Graham, MD PhD in plenary 2101 Preparing for the Next Pandemic: From Mechanisms to Vaccines in Convention Center, North Building, Lower Level, Hall 6 on Saturday, February 26 at 8:20 am

Robert G. Townley, MD FAAAAI



Following completion of residency in Internal Medicine and Fellowship in Allergy Asthma and Immunology in Boston, MA, Dr. Robert G. Townley joined the faculty of Medicine and was Assistant Chief, Department of Asthma-Allergy, National Jewish Hospital, located in Denver, CO. Dr. Townley subsequently returned to Creighton University in Omaha, NE and started an allergy asthma and immunology division in the department of medicine and initiated their allergy fellowship training program.

Dr. Townley has helped train more than 50 fellows in allergy as well as 32 postdoctoral fellows from Japan, who had already finished their clinical training in allergy. He has helped initiate and carry out studies both in bench and animal research in allergy/immunology as well as clinical trials. His preclinical and clinical studies focused on airway hyperresponsiveness and inflammation. Five students have obtained their PhD with the allergy division. He has helped editor co-edit 3 textbooks pertaining to asthma and inflammation, airway smooth muscle, and Immunopharmacology of allergic diseases. He had also been successful in obtaining 3 NIH RO1 grants and an Allergic Disease Centre Grant.

Dr. Townley's allergy program was one of the clinical sites involved in the study of the IL-13 antagonist Lebrikizumab in the treatment in adults with asthma. This study was supported by Genentec and showed that the asthma subjects with high levels of the Periostin gene demonstrated significantly greater improvement in their FEV1 in those subjects treated with Lebrikizumab. (Corren, J., R.F. Lemanske et al 2011. Lebrikizumab treatment in adults with asthma. N. Engl. J. Med).

Sadly, with Dr. Townley's passing on Friday, September 9, 2016, this lectureship has been renamed the Robert G. Townley Memorial Lectureship. The lectureship will help to preserve the memory of Dr. Townley and all his wonderful accomplishments and contributions during his lifetime.

Barney S. Graham, MD PhD



Barney S. Graham is an immunologist, virologist, and clinical trials physician with an extensive background in basic and translational research applied to vaccine development. His work has focused on respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza, coronaviruses, HIV, and other emerging viral diseases. After graduating from Rice University, he obtained his MD from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 1979. He completed residency and two chief residencies in Internal Medicine, a fellowship in Infectious Diseases, and a PhD in Microbiology & Immunology at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, where he rose to the rank of Professor of Medicine with a joint appointment in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology.

In 2000 he became one of the founding investigators for the NIAID Vaccine Research Center at the U.S. NIH as Chief of the Viral Pathogenesis Laboratory and Clinical Trials Core and was Deputy Director of the VRC before retiring in 2021. He is the recipient of the Robert M. Chanock Award for lifetime contributions to RSV research, the Dr. Charles Mérieux Award for Achievement in Vaccinology and Immunology, the Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal Award, and the Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research. He was named one of the world's 100 most influential individuals in 2021 by Time magazine and recognized as the Federal Employee of the Year by the Partnership for Public Service.

He is an author on more than 500 scientific publications, and a thought leader on emerging viral diseases and pandemic preparedness. He is best known for his research on RSV pathogenesis, structure-based vaccine design, and application of mRNA delivery technology. He was involved in the advanced evaluation of vaccines and monoclonal antibodies for HIV, Ebola, and Chikungunya, and developed novel vaccines for RSV, influenza, Zika, paramyxoviruses, and coronaviruses including the first COVID-19 vaccine and monoclonal antibody to enter clinical testing and that subsequently achieved Emergency Use Authorization and licensure.