

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 50th Cooke lecture presented at an AAAAI meeting. **It will be presented in Symposium Session 3307: World Allergy Forum: Food Allergy: Pathogenesis and Prevention on Sunday, March 04, 2012 from 10:45 am - 12:00 noon in Orlando, Florida.**

The Robert A. Cooke Memorial Lecturer - Scott H. Sicherer, MD FAAAAI



Scott H. Sicherer, M.D. is Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, a researcher in the Jaffe Food Allergy Institute, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology, and Medical Director of the Institutional Clinical Research Unit at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York.

Born in New Jersey, Dr. Sicherer received his M.D. from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and his pediatric training, including a Chief Residency, at Mount Sinai. He completed a Fellowship in Allergy and Immunology at Johns Hopkins and then returned as faculty to Mt. Sinai. His research and clinical work focuses on food allergy.

His research, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIAID), Food Allergy Initiative and Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network, includes studies on allergic diseases caused by specific foods such as peanuts, tree nuts, seafood and milk, the epidemiology, natural history and genetic basis of food allergy, gastrointestinal manifestations of food allergies, psychosocial issues associated with food allergies, modalities to educate physicians and parents about food allergy, and novel therapeutics.

He has published over 130 articles in scientific journals. He has authored numerous book chapters in major pediatric and allergy textbooks. Dr. Sicherer is a medical advisor to the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network, the Food Allergy Initiative and others. He is past-Chair of the Adverse Reactions to Foods Committee of the Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, immediate past Chair of the Section on Allergy and Immunology of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and a member of the New York Allergy Society.

He is Associate Editor of the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. He is on the Board of Directors of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology. He has authored 4 lay books on food allergy including "Understanding and Managing Your Child's Food Allergies". He has been consistently recognized as a "Top Doctor" by Castle-Connolly/New York Magazine and listed as top 1% of pediatric allergists by US News and World Report. He is married and has 5 children.