

President's Medal 2016

Dr. Sami Bahna

Sami L. Bahna is Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine and Chief of the Allergy/Immunology Section at Louisiana State University School of Medicine in Shreveport, Louisiana. He graduated from Cairo University with Honors and Doctorate Degree in Public Health in Alexandria University, Egypt. After spending a research fellowship in Norway, he immigrated to the United States where he specialized in pediatrics at the University of Maryland and allergy/immunology at UCLA under the mentorship of Douglas Heiner, MD, PhD, with whom he wrote the book Allergies to Milk.

Dr. Bahna attained a high degree of success over the years with contributions to various areas of allergy, asthma and immunology, particularly food allergy. He authored more than 200 publications and is guest editor of several journal supplements. He is an active member of the AAP, SPR, ACAAI, AAAAI, and EAACI, and served on numerous national, international and NIH committees, and the Executive Committee of the AAP-Section on Allergy/Immunology. He is a reviewer for numerous prestigious journals and served on numerous editorial boards..

He served the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology since 1978 in various capacities and was elected as its President in 2009/10. He received the ACAAI's Distinguished Service Award, Distinguished Fellow Award, International Distinguished Fellow Award, and Clemens von Pirquet Award. He also received the Humanism in Medicine Award by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. He has delivered numerous prestigious named lectures, He was awarded Honorary Membership of the Allergy Society of South Africa, Mexican College of Pediatric Immunology/Allergy, Georgian Association of Allergology/Clinical Immunology, and Egyptian Society of Allergy/ Immunology.

Dr. Bahna is known for his humor both socially and in delivering his lectures. He is a frequently invited speaker or chair at numerous major scientific meetings. He has trained a large number of allergists/immunologist as director of allergy/immunology training programs at four institutions over the past 38 years.

Even before the inauguration of the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy, Dr. Bahna has been coming to Hong Kong to support us incessantly for over twenty years as a constant speaker at our conventions and was recipient of the Sir Q W Lee Lectureship in 2003. Indeed, Dr. Bahna is the mentor of our Institute.