



Lee-Ann H. Allen, PhD – SLB Legacy Award 2027

Dr. Allen is currently the Executive Vice President of Research at Texas Biomedical Research Institute in San Antonio. Over more than 25 years her research program focused on studies of human neutrophils and macrophages and manipulation of their function by the bacterial pathogens *Helicobacter pylori* and *Francisella tularensis*. Specific areas of interest include neutrophil plasticity and nuclear hypersegmentation, transcriptional and metabolic reprogramming, mechanisms of phagocytosis and host cell death,

bacterial trafficking, NADPH oxidase regulation and targeting and characterization of bacterial virulence factors.

Dr. Allen earned BS and MS degrees from the University of California, Riverside and a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her love of phagocytes began during her postdoctoral training at Rockefeller University in New York. After joining the University of Iowa faculty in 1996, she rose through the ranks as a member of the Inflammation Program and the Infectious Disease Division of the Department of Internal Medicine, and extended her affiliations to include the UI Department of Microbiology and Immunology and the Department of Veterans Affairs Research Service. In addition to being awarded the Kate Daum Professorship in 2018, she was Associate Director of the Center for Immunology and Immune-Based Diseases and co-led two T32-funded postdoctoral training programs. In 2020, Dr. Allen retired from the University of Iowa with Emerita status and moved to the University of Missouri as the George Trimble Endowed Chair for Excellence in Medicine and Professor and Chair of the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology. Additionally, she co-Directed the School of Medicine Translational Biosciences PhD Program. In 2025, she relocated again, moving to San Antonio to begin her current role as EVPR at Texas Biomedical Research Institute.

Dr. Allen has served the Society for Leukocyte Biology as Treasurer (2009-2012) and President (2018-2019), as a member of the JLB editorial board (since 2016), and as a member of the FASEB Board of Directors (2019-2026). In 2024, Dr. Allen became an Honorary Lifetime SLB Member. Other leadership roles include service on editorial boards of other journals, her appointment as an Associate Director of the Midwest Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Disease Research (2007-2014) and her election as Chair of the 2013 Phagocytes Gordon Research Conference. Dr. Allen is an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology (2018) and the American Academy for the Advancement of Science (2022) and was a Fellow in the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program of Drexel University (class of 2024). Throughout her career, Dr. Allen has served on numerous grant review panels, belonged to several scientific societies and has been a passionate mentor of undergrads, PhD and MSTP students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty.