

December 2015

## **Eosinophil Researcher Honored as Schmidlapp Woman Scholar**

Patricia C. Fulkerson, MD, PhD, assistant professor in the Division of Allergy and Immunology and the Cincinnati Center for Eosinophilic Disorders at Cincinnati Children's, has been selected as a 2015 Schmidlapp Woman Scholar.

Fulkerson's independent research program is focused on delineating the regulatory network that drives eosinophil development. Her overall aim is to identify novel therapeutic targets to block eosinophil production for the treatment of patients with eosinophil-associated disorders.

Fulkerson has developed a number of innovative methods to study the regulation of eosinophil development including liquid culture systems to follow differentiation of both murine and human EoPs into mature effector eosinophils. The pathways that are identified in her culture systems are tested in models of hypereosinophilia, infection, and allergic inflammation to further characterize the clinical and therapeutic potential of candidate targets.

"Being selected as the 2015 Schmidlapp Scholar is a great honor," says Fulkerson, "one that I believe will make a meaningful difference in my career and the eosinophil biology field. Eosinophil-associated disorders, including eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorders and asthma, are widely prevalent in developed and developing countries. Current therapies can be effective, but resistance and toxic side effects often develop. I believe that researching eosinophil development and differentiation will provide needed insight in developing new therapeutic agents to treat patients with eosinophil-associated disorders."

Each year, the [Fifth Third Bank / Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Women Scholars Program](#) selects recipients in a competitive application process with the goal of supporting the academic career development of women faculty who have demonstrated academic potential and leadership skills. The intention of the award is to provide career support so that more women reach the rank of Associate and Full Professor. This year there were 23 applicants to the program, representing women in 19 different divisions or centers within Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation. The Schmidlapp award will begin January 1, 2016 and provide funds to support Fulkerson's research in eosinophil biology.

The support provided by the Schmidlapp Women Scholars Program will aid in further establishing Fulkerson's promising independent research and continue a long trend of recognition of Fulkerson's innovation and dedication to research. During her MD/PhD studies, she received several distinctions including the Serono Ian Clark-Lewis Memorial Award, provided to a trainee for the best talk at the Keystone Symposium Chemokines & Chemokine Receptors, and the Physician Scientist Training Program Scholar Award from the University of Cincinnati. During her research-track pediatric residency, she was recognized as being an outstanding resident and was awarded the Thomas F. Boat Pediatric Pulmonology Award in her final year of residency. She continued to be recognized during her allergy/immunology fellowship, receiving the AAI-Life Technologies Trainee Achievement Award from the

American Association of Immunologists in 2011, and has the distinction of having achieved extramural funding during her first year of clinical fellowship, with the NIH awarding her a K08 grant on her first application. This independent funding at such an early stage is a notable accomplishment.

In addition to her own research, Fulkerson mentors upcoming scientists and clinicians and sees patients suffering from allergic and immunologic diseases in the [Allergy Clinic](#), [Eosinophilia Clinic](#), and [Cincinnati Center for Eosinophilic Disorders](#).

### **Learn More About Our Research**

Fulkerson Lab:

<http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/research/divisions/a/allergy-immunology/labs/fulkerson/default/>

Cincinnati Center for Eosinophilic Disorders:

[www.cchmc.org/cced](http://www.cchmc.org/cced)

Division of Allergy and Immunology Research:

<http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/research/divisions/a/allergy-immunology/default/>

### **About Cincinnati Children's**

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center ranks third in the nation among all Honor Roll hospitals in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2014 Best Children's Hospitals. It is also ranked in the top 10 for all 10 pediatric specialties. Cincinnati Children's, a non-profit organization, is one of the top three recipients of pediatric research grants from the National Institutes of Health, and a research and teaching affiliate of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. The medical center is internationally recognized for improving child health and transforming delivery of care through fully integrated, globally recognized research, education and innovation. Additional information can be found at [www.cincinnatichildrens.org](http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org). Connect on the [Cincinnati Children's blog](#), via [Facebook](#) and on [Twitter](#).