

## 25th Annual Dr. Raymond O. Berry Memorial Lecture

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Dr. Raymond O. Berry Memorial Lecture, sponsored and organized by the Interdisciplinary Faculty of Reproductive Biology, was held at Prairie View A&M University, on October 18, 2019. Elizabeth A. Bonney, MD, MPH, Professor and Head, Division of Reproductive Sciences, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, College of Medicine, University of Vermont was selected to present the Lecture entitled "A Theory of Maternal Immunity."

Professor Bonney received her B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Minnesota and then served as a Medical Student Scholar in the Department of Medicine at the Stanford University Medical School before receiving her M.D. from Stanford University Medical School and the Masters of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. Her postdoctoral training was as an Intern and later a Resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General. Professor Bonney also conducted research in the laboratories of Drs. Joseph A. Hill and Deborah J. Anderson, Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Reproductive Biology, Harvard Medical School. Later, she served as a Research Associate in both the Lymphocyte Biology Section, Laboratory of Immunology, and the Laboratory of Cellular and Molecular Immunology in the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health. After serving as a Clinical Fellow in Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology, Harvard Medical School and Staff Obstetrician and Gynecologist at Prince George's Hospital Center, Cheverly, Maryland, Professor Bonney joined the faculty of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Emory University and then the faculty of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at the University of Vermont.

Professor Bonney's research focus is on maternal immunity with particular interests in maternal immune response to fetal and exogenously acquired antigens, feto-maternal cellular trafficking, preterm birth, antiviral immunity during pregnancy, developmental functions of cytokines in pregnancy, diversity of dendritic cells in reproductive states, maternal influence on neonatal immunity, interactions between maternal immune and vascular systems and fetal membrane biology. Her research is funded by grants from the NIH, the March of Dimes and the University of Vermont. Results of her research have been published in more than 35 referred scientific journals, 20 scientific commentaries, 4 book chapters, as well as 45 abstracts of papers presented at national and international scientific meetings. Those are in addition to numerous presentations at national and international conferences, lectureships, seminars and visiting professorships. Professor Bonney is very active as a mentor for undergraduate and graduate students,



postdoctoral fellows and clinical fellows, as well as medical students and residents.

Professor Bonney's service to the scientific community includes membership on the National Institute of Child Health and Development Board of scientific counselors, Advisory Board of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology, Secretary-General of the Pre-Term Birth International Collaborative, and reviewer of grants for NIH's study sections on Human Embryology and Development, Cellular and Molecular Integrative Reproduction, Infectious Disease, and Reproductive Health, Asthma, and Pulmonary Epidemiology, as well as the Medical Research Council of England, Burroughs Wellcome Fund, and the American Heart Association. In addition, Professor Bonney is actively engaged in her professional societies, and outreach and community service.

For her outstanding contributions, Texas A&M University recognizes the work of Dr. Bonney through the Raymond O. Berry Memorial Lecture which was established in 1994 by Dr. Fuller W. Bazer. This Lecture Series ensures that his contributions will continue to inspire students and faculty whose application of biotechnology to the field of reproductive biology contributes to animal agriculture and impacts the biomedical community. Dr. Berry's pioneering studies of genetic factors affecting reproduction contributed basic knowledge about maternal immune recognition of the fetal-placental unit. These principles are now fundamental to the discipline of reproductive immunology.

*Below: Meeting organizers and presenters (left to right), Drs. Ky Pohler, Greg Johnson, Gary Newton, Bill Foxworth, Fuller Bazer, Dr. Elizabeth Bonney and members of Dr. Berry's family (granddaughter, daughter, M Carl Thompson, son-in-law, Mrs. Dorothy McLemore, Dr. Berry's daughter and Dr. Joe McLemore, (son-in-law). For the past 24 years, Dr. Duane Kraemer, who worked with Dr. Berry during his early years as a graduate student, has led off the Lecture by providing an entertaining presentation that included memories of Dr. Berry. This year, Dr. Kraemer was unable to attend, Dr. Bill Foxworth, a former trainee of Dr. Kraemer, presented comments on some of Dr. Berry's contributions.*



*"Dr. Berry's pioneering studies contributed basic knowledge about maternal immune recognition of the fetal-placental unit."*

*-Fuller W. Bazer*

