

OBITUARY

A farewell to Işıl Barlan

DOI: 10.1111/pai.12419

She was born in 1958 in Trabzon, Turkey, graduated from Istanbul Robert College High School in 1977, and received her medical degree from Istanbul University Cerrahpaşa Medical School in 1983. She became a full professor of pediatrics in 2000. As she herself always acknowledged, two scientists had an important role in shaping her medical and research career. Her initial mentor in pediatric allergy and immunology was Prof. Müjdat Başaran with whom she had extensively published in the field. She then spent three years with Prof. Raif Geha at Boston Children's Hospital where she had the opportunity to excel her knowledge in basic and clinical allergy and immunology. After her return to Turkey, she served as the Chief of Allergy and Immunology Department at Marmara University School of Medicine.

She had a multitude of interests in research, which is clearly reflected in her publication record. These included clinical and mechanistic aspects of sublingual and subcutaneous allergen immunotherapies, immunomodulation in atopic diseases, and immunodeficiencies. Her academic career is a success story. Her academic achievements brought her the very prestigious Sedat Simavi Prize in 2013. She served in the Executive Committee of European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI). After 2009, she devoted much of her energy to the care of immunodeficient patients. To this aim, in collaboration with the Jeffrey Modell Foundation, she set up "Center of Immune Deficiency" in Marmara University.

She was also active in the public arm of the field and established an "Association of Immune Deficiency" both for physicians and for the patients and their families. She was a beloved friend of her patients and their families. She was a great teacher, too. She raised many of today's allergists and immunologists in Turkey. Her students are now leading other centers throughout the country.

Surviving in the scientific world is not easy, especially when one is involved in research. Everyone is in pursuit of important findings, big discoveries, and great publications. And with all these comes an inevitable and tough competition. This over-indulgence in our scientific ambitions may sometimes put a veil in front of our eyes and thus hinder us from realizing that our friends and our colleagues, the ones that we spend more time than we do with our families are going through difficult times and that those who are extremely capable in their works, are having serious difficulties in coping with life, life itself. If only we could roll the reel backward, and stop her untimely departure from this world.

To die:—to sleep:
No more; and, by a sleep to say we end
The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks
That flesh is heir to.

From Hamlet

Her irreplaceable loss left many students, colleagues, patients and their families in a great grief. She will be missed, much missed by them all.



Prof. Işıl B. Barlan, MD, of Istanbul, Turkey, a leading scientist in allergy and clinical immunology, the shining star of the Turkish scientific world, sadly passed away following a tragic accident on April 13, 2015.

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