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Lymphatic Education
& Research Network

**LYMPHATIC EDUCATION & RESEARCH NETWORK (LE&RN)
PRESENTS 2014 WENDY CHAITE LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

New York, New York, March 13, 2014 – The Lymphatic Education & Research Network (LE&RN) is pleased to announce that the 2014 Wendy Chaite Leadership Awards have been presented to H. Eser Tolunay, PhD, of the [National Institutes of Health](#) and Heather Ferguson of the [Lymphedema Advocacy Group](#).

This year, the Leadership award was renamed the Wendy Chaite Leadership Award in recognition of our Founder's impact on the field. The award recognizes persons most deserving of acknowledgment for their considerable contribution in lymphatics. It is intended to recognize individuals, including elected and appointed officials; organizations, non-profit and for profit corporations; foundations; and institutions who have made a significant contribution toward promoting and supporting lymphatic research, at the international, national, state or local level, to advance the field of lymphatic research and/or to find improved treatments and cures for lymphatic diseases, lymphedema, and related disorders. Past recipients have included Stephen Goldman, PhD and Henry Chang, MD (2002); Stanley Rockson, MD (2004), Waldemar Olszewski, MD (2006); Guillermo Oliver, PhD (2008); and David Zawieja, PhD (2010), and Kari Alitalo, MD PhD (2012).

This year's winners were announced by LE&RN Executive Director, William Repicci, at the Gordon Research Conference in Lucca, Italy on March 11 to a room of distinguished researchers from around the world.

About H. Eser Tolunay, PhD



H. Eser Tolunay, PhD, is the Deputy Chief of the Vascular Biology and Hypertension Branch, in the Division of Cardiovascular Sciences at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She oversees programs on integrated basic, translational, and clinical research on etiology, pathogenesis, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of vascular diseases and hypertension. Her own portfolio focuses on basic, translational, and clinical research on aortic aneurysms, and the biology and diseases of the lymphatic system. She chairs the trans-NIH Coordinating Committee on Lymphatic Research. Dr. Tolunay began her research career at NHLBI as a Fogarty Fellow, and later as a Staff Fellow. In 1985, she joined the Monsanto Company in St. Louis to conduct pharmaceutical discovery research. Her research involved atherosclerosis, thrombosis and homeostasis, hypertension, and inflammation. She returned to NHLBI in 2001. Dr. Tolunay earned her Bachelor's degree in Chemistry at Robert College in Turkey, and her PhD in Biochemistry at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

About Heather Ferguson



Heather Ferguson is the Founder and Executive Director of the Lymphedema Advocacy Group. Her relationship with lymphedema began when her son Dylan was born with idiopathic congenital primary bilateral lower body lymphedema. Ms. Ferguson's desire to advocate on behalf of lymphedema patients took root when she learned of the deficiencies in insurance coverage for the medically necessary compression garments used daily in lymphedema treatment. Although a relative newcomer to the field of lymphedema, her background as a professional ballet dancer, teacher, and choreographer provided pertinent expertise and accomplishments in goal-setting and personal and professional discipline, which have contributed to her remarkable success as a leader in lymphedema advocacy in the area of health policy. In 2009, Ms. Ferguson worked with her State Representative to pass the North Carolina Lymphedema Diagnosis and Treatment Act. In 2010, she worked with her Congressman to introduce the Lymphedema Treatment Act, and founded the Lymphedema Advocacy Group in order to raise the awareness and support that would be necessary to move a bill through Congress.

About The Lymphatic Education & Research Network (LE&RN)

Founded in 1998, the Lymphatic Education & Research Network is a national not-for-profit organization whose mission is to fight lymphatic disease and lymphedema through education, research and advocacy. We seek to accelerate the prevention, treatment and cure of the disease while bringing patients and medical professionals together to address the unmet needs surrounding lymphatic disorders.

For more information about lymphatic disease or the Lymphatic Education & Research Network, please visit www.LymphaticNetwork.org or call (516) 625-9675.

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