

Rebecca H. Buckley
Doctor of Science

Rebecca H. Buckley is James Buren Sidbury Professor of Pediatrics and Professor of Immunology at the Duke University School of Medicine. She is an internationally known researcher, a prolific clinician, and a highly decorated and accomplished educator. Born and raised in Hamlet, North Carolina, Dr. Buckley was the only one of her 55 high school classmates to go to college. She received an AB from Duke and an MD from UNC in 1958.

Throughout her career, she has been at the forefront of pediatric allergy and immunology. In 1972, she described the clinical immunology features of Hyper-IgE syndrome and, for the past 45 years, she has continued to add significantly to the research in this area. She is an international leader in molecular identification of the genetic defects in patients with primary immunodeficiency diseases. Her early studies on newborns with SCID led to the development of a screening test for this condition, which has allowed most of these infants to be cured.

She has served on the board of Pediatric Allergy of the American Board of Pediatrics (1969-71), and in multiple roles with the American Board of Allergy-Immunology, including director (1971-73, 1982-87), president (1984), and chair of the Clinical and Laboratory Immunology Advisory Committee (1984-88). She has also been president of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology.

The UNC School of Medicine honored her in 2008 with a Distinguished Service Award for her excellence in teaching, contributions to medicine throughout the state, and leadership in continuing education of practicing physicians. In honor of her teaching efforts, she received the Duke University Research Mentoring Award and the Honorary Fellow Award of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. She has been recognized with many awards throughout her career for her scientific contributions, and most notably was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2012.