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COLLEGIUM RAMAZZINI

ANNUAL
RAMAZZINI DAYS

The Collegium Ramazzini and the Town of Carpi are proud to recognize

LINDA S. BIRNBAUM

As Ramazzini Award recipient for 2021.

Dr. Linda Birnbaum, PhD, DABT, ATS is a toxicologist and microbiologist who has devoted her life's work to understanding how toxic chemicals in the environment endanger human health. Dr. Birnbaum has made seminal contributions to elucidating the toxicology of persistent organic pollutants – dioxins, polychlorinated biphenyls, and most recently perfluorinated compounds. She is a thought leader in the study of endocrine-disrupting chemicals. She is a tireless, evidence-based advocate for public health.

Dr. Birnbaum is a native of New Jersey, USA. She received her B.S. in Biology from the University of Rochester and her doctoral degree in Microbiology from the University of Illinois. In 1979, she joined the National Toxicology Program, and over the next four decades, she undertook research and held administrative positions of increasing responsibility within the National Toxicology Program, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

In January 2009, Dr. Birnbaum was named Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and Director of the National Toxicology Program, and she served in these posts with great distinction for more than a decade. During her tenure as NIEHS Director, Dr. Birnbaum was responsible for leading a multimillion-dollar research program in environmental health science that spans the United States and the world. She is widely credited for expanding NIEHS' focus on the cumulative health impacts of exposures to multiple environmental contaminants. She strengthened the Institute's commitment to addressing the health impacts of climate change. Through the National Toxicology Program, she collaborated closely with the research of the Ramazzini Institute.

Throughout all of her career, Dr. Birnbaum has been a scholar and a highly productive researcher who has authored more than 600 scientific papers on environmental contaminants and their health impacts. She has been a courageous advocate who has spoken out boldly even in difficult times on the urgent need to protect vulnerable populations against toxic chemicals in the environment.

Dr. Birnbaum is the recipient of numerous awards and honors. These include the Surgeon General's Medallion; the National Institutes of Health Director's Award; the Arnold J. Lehman Award of the Society of Toxicology; and the American Public Health Association's Homer N. Carver Award. Dr. Birnbaum was elected President of the Society of Toxicology for 2004-2005. She was elected to the National Academy of Medicine of the United States in 2010.

Dr. Linda Birnbaum is a true follower of our patron, Bernardino Ramazzini. In her life's work, she has combined high scientific achievement with tireless public service and evidence-based advocacy. She has followed in the footsteps of our founders, Professors Irving J. Selikoff and Cesare Maltoni. She has helped mend this wounded world.

It is an enormous privilege for the Collegium Ramazzini and the Town of Carpi to bestow the Ramazzini Award for 2021 upon our dear friend, beloved colleague, and public health hero - Dr. Linda S. Birnbaum.