



## Professor Lina M. Obeid (1955–2019)

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Lina M. Obeid, M.D., was the SUNY Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Dean for Research, and Vice Dean for Scientific Affairs at the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University. Dr. Obeid's clinical focus was on geriatric medicine, but she was a renowned physician-scientist and biomedical researcher known for her revolutionary work defining the role of sphingolipids in aging.

Dr. Lina Obeid received her MD in 1983 from the American University in Beirut, Lebanon. She conducted her residency in Internal Medicine at Duke University, fellowship training in Endocrinology and Geriatrics, and post-doctoral work with Professor Robert Lefkowitz at Duke. Dr. Obeid rose through the ranks at Duke University to become Associate Professor of Medicine and Cell Biology. In 1998, Dr. Obeid was recruited to the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, where she served as the Boyle

Professor of Medicine in the Division of Geriatrics, and as Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Staff Physician at the Charleston Veterans Affairs Hospital. In 2012, Dr. Obeid was recruited to become Professor of Medicine and Dean for Research at Stony Brook University. She was promoted to SUNY Distinguished Professor of Medicine in 2017.

Dr. Obeid launched her research career by studying the role of signaling lipids in cell stress, aging, inflammation, and cancer. She was the first to identify the role of the lipid ceramide as a regulator of cell senescence and apoptosis. Her research focused on the role and regulation of bioactive sphingolipids in inflammation and cancer with specific interest in the enzymes sphingosine kinases, ceramidases, and ceramide synthases and their respective roles in regulating ceramide and sphingosine phosphate levels in cells. She had contributed to more than 230 scholarly publications and was continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Obeid and her husband, Yusuf A. Hannun, M.D., at the Stony Brook University School of Medicine were dual recipients of Eicosanoid Research Foundation's *Lifetime Achievement Award* at the 16th International Conference on Bioactive Lipids in Cancer, Inflammation and Related Diseases, which recently took place in October 2019. Both separately and as longtime collaborators, Drs. Hannun and Obeid were trailblazers in the field of bioactive lipids. Dr. Hannun is a Cancer and Metastasis Editorial Board Member.

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