

**Katherine L. Knight, PhD**  
**Marion Spencer Fay Award Honoree - 2015**



Dr. Katherine L. Knight is professor and chair of the Department of Microbiology & Immunology and co-founder of the Infectious Disease and Immunology Institute at Loyola University Chicago. She received her PhD from Indiana University and did postdoctoral work at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

As assistant professor at UIC, she received an NIH Career Development Award, which allowed her to develop an independent research program studying the genetic basis of antibody formation. After rising through the academic ranks, in 1989 she was recruited to Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine as chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

At Loyola she has focused both on recruiting highly interactive faculty and on developing a strong PhD graduate program. Dr. Knight has had continuous funding from the NIH for over 45 years, including a MERIT award from 1986-1996. She has served on and chaired numerous NIH review panels and was president of the American Association of Immunologists from 1996-1997.

Although her primary research interest continues to focus on antibodies and B lymphocytes, she has expanded her research to include studies on the mechanisms by which intestinal microbiota regulate the immune system, and how commensal bacteria protect from infectious diseases. In addition to her teaching and research activities, Dr. Knight is passionate about student and faculty mentoring, and has written and spoken widely on this topic.