

Biography of Louis M. Mendelson, MD

Dr. Louis Mendelson has worked as an allergist in private practice and academia in West Hartford, Enfield, and Manchester Connecticut for over 40 years. Dr. Mendelson has been a professor at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine for 35 years and has directed an allergy clinic at Connecticut Children's Medical Center for nearly 20 years. He has served as the President of the Connecticut Allergy Society and the New England Society of Allergy. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) and received leadership and distinguished clinician awards from many organizations including AAAAI. He has served as chair of the Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Education and Research Organization, Inc. and is a cofounder of the New England Food Allergy Center LLC. He is also a founder and president of AllerQuest LLC, a developer and manufacturer of penicillin allergy testing reagents. He has spent his professional life working with patients and families facing severe allergies.

For over 40 years, Dr. Mendelson has led penicillin allergy research and worked to educate health care providers and the public about the importance of safely verifying penicillin allergy in order to avoid antibiotic misuse, the leading cause of antibiotic resistance. Notably, he is the first physician to prove that patients with a history of penicillin allergy can be skin tested for penicillin allergy when they are healthy and not in immediate need of penicillin. His interest in this field was spurred by the recognition that the majority of children labeled as penicillin allergic could, in fact, tolerate this drug without risk of a life threatening reaction by skin testing them with the appropriate penicillin reagents.

In 2005 the only FDA-approved penicillin-testing reagent was removed from the market, thus temporarily preventing any subsequent penicillin allergy testing. After unsuccessful attempts to encourage existing pharmaceutical companies to manufacture and market the reagent, Dr. Mendelson formed AllerQuest LLC with two other allergists and a pharmacologist to bring the reagent back to market and to develop the remainder of the four necessary penicillin reagents to test for the whole spectrum of penicillin allergies. In 2009 AllerQuest brought the reagent that was removed by FDA back to the

market and for the past three years has been working with the FDA to bring all the reagents to market.