

**1-Year Progress Report by Dr. Lee Tak-Hong
(Dec 2014 – Dec 2015)**

As always I thank the officers, advisors and colleagues on Council without whose wisdom and support nothing could have been achieved. I also thank Ms. Sigourney Liu and her team at MIMS who have performed the duties of our secretariat with patience and efficiency. Most of all I thank our members for their enthusiasm and energy.

At the Think Tank meeting at the start of my term a year ago, Council agreed unanimously to shape a strong professional platform for the benefits of allergic patients in Hong Kong in the following ways:

- *Increase allergies' public and professional profile;*
- *Create more opportunities for training of aspiring allergists and allied health professionals;*
- *Promote an environment to facilitate discovery of new knowledge;*
- *Progress an agenda to help improve allergy services.*

I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made in many areas as detailed below.

We are very honoured that Dr. Ko Wing-man, BBS JP, Secretary for Food and Health in the Government of the Hong Kong SAR has accepted our invitation to become HKIA's new Patron. We invited him to an informal dinner at the Hong Kong Club to meet members of Council and key individuals who help us in the administration of our Institute.

A number of new subcommittees were established to drive forward our agenda:

- 1) *Scientific Programme and Research (co-chair: Prof. Ting-fan Leung and Prof. Gary Wong)*
- 2) *Public Engagement (co-chair: Dr. Henry Chan and Dr. Marco Ho)*
- 3) *Publication (chair: Dr. Jane Chan)*
- 4) *Social Programme (chair: Dr. Robert Tseng)*
- 5) *Membership (co-chair: Dr. Johnny Chan and Dr. Kit-man Sin)*
- 6) *Education, Training and Fellowships (co-chair: Dr. Fanny Ko and Dr. Adrian Wu)*
- 7) *Immunology (co-chair: Dr. Eric Chan and Dr. Roland Leung)*
- 8) *Service Development (co-chair: Dr. Christopher Lai and Dr. Tak-hong Lee)*
- 9) *Allied Health Professionals and Health Promotion (co-chair: Ms. June Chan and Ms. Maggie Lit)*
- 10) *Finance (co-chair: Dr. Alice Ho and Dr. Tak-fu Tse)*

The highlights of each subcommittee's work are summarized below:

1) Scientific Programme and Research

- An evening symposium on “Allergy Prevention and Management in 2015 and Beyond” sponsored by Danone Nutricia was held on 4 December 2014 at the Mira Hotel. 185 registrations were received. The overall turn up rate was 75%;
- A pilot research grant proposal scheme has been approved by Council;
- 9th HKIA International Allergy Convention will be held on 8 – 9 October 2016 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and the Organising Committee (Chaired by Prof. Gary Wong) is starting to design an exciting scientific programme. Invitations have been sent to several other Allergy Societies internationally to join with HKIA to co-organise the event. The British Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI), the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) and the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI) have already accepted to participate by sending some speakers. This will be a special Convention as HKIA will be celebrating its 20th birthday;
- On 17 September 2015, HKIA and the Hong Kong Society for Paediatric Immunology Allergy and Infectious Diseases hosted a dinner symposium on “Allergy Prevention Begins At Your Practice” at the Mira Hotel sponsored by Danone Nutricia.

2) Public Engagement

- A press conference on “Allergy Risk in Infants and Young Children Survey Results” co-organized by the Hong Kong Allergy Association and HKIA was held on 28 April 2015;
- There will be more collaborations between HKIA and the Hong Kong Allergy Association in the future so that we can speak with one voice in the public domain;
- HKIA with other colleagues are helping the Environmental Protection Department of the Government of HKSAR to produce a series of short educational video clips to be aired widely on TV within a few months to engage the public about pollution and its health hazards;
- HKIA is discussing about support of Hong Kong Economic Journal (信報醫療版編輯醫) by writing an article on an allergy topic each month in 2016.

3) Publication

- First and second issues of our e-newsletter had been published and sent to members on 15 April 2015 and 15 October 2015 respectively. There was a once off mailing of both 2015 e-newsletters by MIMS to an extensive database of doctors and others to broaden the readership. We will take the opportunity in the mailing to invite readers to subscribe to the free six monthly e-newsletters by joining HKIA;
- Consultations on “Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Cow’s Milk Protein Allergy (CMPA) in Hong Kong”, “Guidelines on Prevention of Peanut Allergy” and “Guidelines for Allergy Prevention in Hong Kong” were completed. All these guidelines have already been uploaded onto HKIA’s website (<http://www.allergy.org.hk/>).
- HK Institute of Allergy and the HKSPIAID hope to collaborate and write an update position paper on immunizations/vaccinations in egg allergic children.

4) Social Programme

- A BBQ dinner for members and families, originally scheduled on 3 October 2015, is now re-scheduled to 16 January 2016 at the HK Golf Club due to the bad typhoon weather.

5) Membership

- Number of members increased from 401 in December 2014 to 660 in December 2015. We are targeting a doubling in membership numbers in the first three years of my Presidency;
- Joining fee and annual subscription fee waived for two years, so this is a great time to join. Benefits of membership include substantial discounts to attend conferences and workshops hosted by HKIA. Council will identify sponsors for applicants who do not know of another member;
- Schemes to offer HKIA scholarships for travel to conferences and training grants for studying overseas have been approved by Council. Details are being finalized;
- HKIA has sponsored Dr. Gilbert Chua to attend the 24th World Allergy Congress held on 14 – 17 October 2015 in Seoul, Korea.

6) Education, Training and Fellowships

- A certificate course on “Diagnosis and Management of Allergy” co-organized with the Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong was held on 6 October to 10 November 2015 (every Tuesday). 110 registrations were fully subscribed.

7) Immunology

- HKIA will be co-organizing clinical laboratory allergy meetings with the Department of Pathology of Queen Mary Hospital (QMH) 2 to 3 times a year. This will be a 1.5 hours programme on a different theme each time. The first meeting was held on 29 September 2015 on Anesthetic Drug Allergy;
- Dr. Eric Chan, Professor Ellis Hon, Dr. Roland Leung and Dr. Adrian Wu were invited to write a position paper on “Allergy Laboratory Testing”. Dr. Adrian Wu would lead the group.

8) Service Development

- A “bottom up” strategy will be adopted to increase educational initiatives and start to grow allergy expertise from interested clinicians and allied health professionals;
- It is hoped that an Allergy Board will set up at QMH and allergy case presentations will be organized every 6 weeks alternatively at QMH and Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital. Council will reassess at a later stage the need for HKIA to establish its own independent clinical workshops;
- QMH/HKU has been awarded a new Resident post that will specialise in Allergy and Immunology. Dr. Philip Li will be undertaking the training at QMH/HKU and will spend some of his time at the Allergy Centre, Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital;



9) Allied Health Professionals and Health Promotion

- The 1st HKIA Nursing and Allied Health Symposium on “An Update on Food Allergy Regimen” co-organized with Hong Kong Respiratory Nursing College will be held on 12 January 2015 at the Cordis Hotel. This symposium will be sponsored by Nestle Nutrition.

10) Finance

- The financial situation of the Institute remains healthy. HKIA has secured several major unrestricted educational grants; Danone Nutricia, Nestle (Hong Kong) Ltd., A.Menarini, AstraZeneca, Mundipharma and Stallergenes have become our major corporate sponsors.

I thank our membership, which is growing weekly, for its continuing support. Long may it continue! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any comments or suggestions. I would like to hear from you.