

**Two Year President's report
Dr Lee Tak Hong, December 2016**

First, let me thank Dr Helen Chan, our loyal and dedicated Secretary General; our Council members; subcommittee members; and our advisors; without their energy, wisdom and support nothing could have been achieved. I thank Ms. Sigourney Liu and her team at MIMS who have performed the duties of our secretariat with utmost patience and efficiency. I also thank Ms Carmen Mai and her team at ICC for their quiet efficiency in the organisation of yet another very successful international Allergy Convention.

The Institute could not have driven forward its agenda alone and I take this opportunity to voice my deep appreciation of the productive collaboration and/or dialogue with partners that included but not limited to HK Allergy Association; Environment Protection Department of the HKSAR Government; sister societies in related disciplines in HK and overseas such as the ACAAI, BSACI, EAACI, APAAACI and APAPARI; the Federation of Medical Societies; the Universities; the respective HK Colleges of Physicians, Paediatricians and Pathologists; The Hospital Authority; and the Industry.

At the Think Tank meeting at the start of my term in 2014, Council agreed unanimously to shape a strong professional platform for the benefits of allergic patients in Hong Kong by:

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

Ten subcommittees were formed to pursue the ambitious agenda and another one on Information Technology and Data Privacy was created recently.

While there are still many challenges ahead, the profile of Allergy in HK has increased markedly within a very short time frame and progress has been exceptionally encouraging. With your support I believe that many of our aspirations in 2014 have been met. This year was especially meaningful because HKIA celebrated its 20th Anniversary.

The highlights in the last two years included:

New Patron

- Dr. Ko Wing-man, BBS JP, Secretary for Food and Health in the Government of the Hong Kong SAR accepted our invitation to become HKIA's new Patron.

Membership

- HKIA membership has almost doubled overall to around 800 members. Even more striking has been the impressive 4-fold increase in the numbers of members in the allied health professionals' category.

Clinical Training

- A new training curriculum for adult Allergy has been approved by the Hong Kong College of Physicians.
- At Queen Mary Hospital / University of HK a new training post in adult Allergy; three paediatric trainee/fellowship posts with an interest in Allergy; and an Immunology/Allergy trainee post in Pathology have been created. In addition a multidisciplinary transitional allergy service for children and adults is being considered.
- At Prince of Wales Hospital / Chinese University HK there are four new paediatric trainees working in Allergy, Immunology and Infectious Diseases.
- A number of existing trainees in related specialties at other public Hospitals and in the Department of Health are also investigating training and career opportunities in Allergy.

Education and Outreach

- HKIA now hosts frequent symposia and courses in Allergy which are always fully attended and often over-subscribed.
- HKIA is publishing clinical Allergy practice guidelines for Hong Kong.
- HKIA has established an informative mobile optimized webpage, facebook and twitter social media platforms so that HKIA can reach more people.
- The Institute now publishes two informative newsletters annually under the diligent guidance of the Editor-in-Chief, Dr Jane Chan, with the able assistance of her team of enthusiastic sub-editors.
- Articles on important developments in Allergy written by HKIA members are published in peer reviewed scientific journals and appear regularly in both the local Chinese and English media.
- HKIA and other colleagues have worked with the Environment Protection Department in the Government of HKSAR to produce a series of educational video clips for the lay public about urban pollution entitled 'Clean Air and You'.

New Scholarships and Grant Schemes

- HKIA now offers scholarships to its members to train overseas and provides travel grants for them to attend Allergy conferences.
- A new competitive pilot grant scheme has been launched that supports collection of preliminary data by HKIA members to strengthen subsequent applications to major research agencies.

HK Allergy Conference and 20th Anniversary Celebrations

- The 9th HKIA International Allergy Convention was held on 8 – 9 October 2016 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. It was very successful and was the centre piece of our 20th Anniversary Celebrations. We were supported by the ACAAI (American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology); BSACI (British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology); and the EAACI (European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology), so it was a truly international event. There were 415 registrants from 15 different countries. The quality of the science was outstanding and all credit goes to the Programme Committee chaired by Professor Gary Wong and the Organising Committee that worked tirelessly to design an exciting festival of science.
- HKIA produced two booklets to mark its 20th anniversary. One booklet contained congratulatory messages from officials of the HKSAR Government; distinguished colleagues; as well as friends of the Institute and were accompanied by two articles written by The President and Dr Helen Chan about HKIA. This was the first time that an official history of HKIA has been recorded. The other booklet was a collection of interesting short articles written by HKIA members that had been translated and summarised, where necessary, from the original English text into Chinese. These can be viewed and downloaded from HKIA's website (www.allergy.org.hk).

HKIA Awards

- For the first time HKIA presented awards to honour those local and overseas individuals who have made outstanding contributions to growth and development of allergy in HK in Clinical Allergy (Dr Helen Chan); Research (Dr Tak-hong Lee); and Allied Health (Ms June Chan). A prize was also awarded to the best clinical (Prof TF Leung) and non-clinical (Ms Jing Zhu) poster at the Convention. In addition HKIA awarded the inaugural President's Medal. This is the highest honour that the Institute can bestow. It recognises sustained and transformative contributions both to HKIA and the wider growth of the specialty of Allergy in HK. This year it was awarded to Professor Sami Bahna. More details can be found on HKIA's website.
- At the AGM, and also for the first time, HKIA will be presenting both Dr Patrick Yuen and Dr John Leung with the award of Lifetime Distinguished Service to HKIA.



Governance

- HKIA has amended its constitution to enlarge the size of its governing Council from 11 to 16 so that younger colleagues can be recruited to be nurtured as future leaders.

Finances

- HKIA is in robust financial health and our industrial partners have generously donated significant numbers of unrestricted educational grants.

Social Activities

- HKIA held a poolside BBQ as part of its social agenda. It was postponed twice because of bad weather but was eventually successfully held on Nov 12th 2016 at the HK Golf Club, Deep Water Bay, courtesy of Dr Tse Tak-fu. It was a fun occasion and much enjoyed by all. It is hoped that an annual social event will be held each year and for 2017 we are investigating hosting a boat trip in the summer.

The remarkable progress in the last two years of our wide ranging agenda bodes well for the future. There is no better time to become an allergist. The clinical burden is enormous and specialists are needed. We are entering into a golden era for allergy prevention and patient-focused management using new evidence-based strategies that challenge long held but outdated paradigms.

I have been President for two years and my first term of service is completed. It has been an enormous privilege to serve you as your President. I have agreed to serve for one more year until the end of 2017, during which time Dr Marco Ho will become the President-elect. My maxim for HKIA two years ago is as true now as it was then: **growth, inclusivity, vision to inspire and energy (GIVE).**