

Key Points in the Strategy for Hong Kong Institute of Allergy (2014 – 2016)

Dr. Tak-hong Lee, President (Dec 2014)

Scientific Programme and Research (co-chair: Prof. Ting-fan Leung and Prof. Gary Wong)

1. The successful biennial conference organized by HKIA will be continued. We will consider holding these regularly as joint meetings with other disciplines/societies locally and with more international organizations, as we have done for many years with the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.
2. HKIA will explore how it might help research efforts, not least by voicing strong support for implementation of a translational research approach through clinical academic centers of excellence. In future and when funds are available, HKIA could even commission itself a piece of research for example on pollution, or in other areas including validation or repudiation of unconventional allergy diagnostic tests being offered to patients.

Public Engagement (co-chair: Dr. Henry Chan and Dr. Marco Ho)

1. HKIA will aspire to be an authoritative voice in matters pertaining to allergy in HK.
2. The subcommittee will try to develop an innovative, proactive public engagement strategy in conjunction with Allergy HK and our own education, training and fellowship subcommittee.

Publication (co-chair: Dr. Jane Chan and Dr. Julie Wang)

1. HKIA will be writing HK specific management guidelines for allergic conditions. The first such guideline on management of cow's milk allergy in infants and children is completed and uploaded on to our website. The next guideline for 2015 will be on Allergy Prevention.
2. HKIA will publish a 6 monthly e-newsletter for members. It will also consider writing position papers on controversial/current issues, such as alternative allergy testing, effect of global warming on allergic diseases, impact of pollution, advice about allergy prevention.

Membership (co-chair: Dr. Johnny Chan and Dr. Kit-man Sin)

1. Young members are the future of our specialty and we must create an imaginative agenda to bring younger colleagues, trainees and allied health professionals into the Institute, so that they can be groomed to serve as active Council or subcommittee chairs/members in due course. This new subcommittee will advise on the unmet needs of both younger and established colleagues so HKIA can try to nurture and support them.

Education, Training and Fellowships (co-chair: Dr. Fanny Ko and Dr. Adrian Wu)

1. The subcommittee will be developing an educational outreach programme for the public.
2. In addition the subcommittee will be designing a series of workshops and/or educational meeting(s) to be held in the year when there is no international convention. These meetings are more educational involving local speakers than the international convention which is more of an update on new research and has an international faculty. We could design a course that includes lectures and workshops with a focus for general practitioners, internists, general paediatricians, trainees and allied health professionals. The first meeting could be held in Dec 2015.
3. The committee could also explore how HKIA can create some competitive training Fellowships for HK trainees to spend a short period abroad to gain in depth experience in some aspect of allergy.

Immunology (co-chair: Dr. Eric Chan and Dr. Roland Leung)

1. An active forum for immunologists and lab based personnel with interests in allergy seems essential - after all our specialism approved by the HK Medical Council is one in "Immunology and Allergy". This subcommittee in Immunology will be advising on what HKIA can do to help our immunology colleagues.

Service Development (co-chair: Dr. Tak-hong Lee and Dr Chris Lai)

1. An open meeting was convened earlier in the year to overview provision of services and training in allergy in HK. The informal gathering of like-minded colleagues who wished to see allergy services and training given more priority in HK is now named The Allergy Alliance. HKIA plays a central role in the work of the Alliance.
2. The Alliance will continue to push forward the drive to improve services and training.

Allied Health Professionals and Health Promotion (co-chair: Ms. June Chan and Ms Maggie Lit)

1. A new subcommittee for allied health professionals, such as nurses, dieticians, physiologists and technicians, will be created to advise HKIA on an agenda to help this group of colleagues. In addition the group will discuss how it can advise the public about allergy health promotion.
2. With respect to health promotion the President has convened a working party drawn from the main respiratory related societies; patient groups; and academics from Public Health Departments from the universities to make some recommendations to Ms. Christine Loh, Under Secretary for

the Environment, about pollution and respiratory health.

Infrastructure Support, Logistics, Communication and Collaborations

1. We will work together with other bodies to progress our strategic direction. For example it is strongly recommended that HKIA enters into dialogue with Allergy HK on how we can work together. HKIA is the professional society for allergy and Allergy HK is the patient organization so we could create a synergistic and collaborative effort on a shared agenda but respecting each other's autonomy. This agenda could include, for instance, developing allergy services; working with media so that we speak with one voice in the public domain; and on educational initiatives. To a greater or lesser extent this is already happening but the President will have further discussions with chairman of Allergy HK (Dr Marco Ho). We will also seek ways to collaborate with other professional societies and industrial partners, but ensuring our independence.
2. We will discuss with colleagues at the Universities how HKIA can help them pursue their goals so that we can action an imaginative bi-directional strategy to mutual advantage. HKIA for example might be able to help broker multi-center trials through its membership.

Finance (co-chair: Dr. Alice Ho and Dr. Tak-fu Tse)

1. To support the broad range and ambitious initiatives proposed above, including appointing a full time secretariat, the Institute will develop a robust and imaginative strategy to fund its immediate goals; to grow; and to secure its future.