

Open letter to members of Hong Kong Institute of Allergy (HKIA) and other colleagues

Dr. Tak-hong Lee

December 2014

It is an honour to be elected the President of HKIA. HKIA's role in fostering a professional forum for fellowship and scientific exchange in allergy is unique in Hong Kong. Its success is self evident, not least of which is its highly reputed international biennial convention. This has become an important part of the conference calendar for general practitioners, allergists, immunologists and related disciplines as well as for allied health professionals in Hong Kong and beyond.

I have been inspired by the vision of HKIA and I have admired its collegiality. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the Founders; our past Presidents; our dedicated Honorary Secretary Dr. Helen Chan; as well as past and current officers, without whom the Institute would not have progressed so quickly. I thank them all on your behalf.

As HKIA approaches its 19th year since its launch in 1996, the challenge for us is to write the next chapter of its illustrious history. I hope we can build on the remarkable legacy to date and make HKIA an even more vibrant organization that is inclusive and forward looking.

We will try to define how HKIA might contribute to the development of allergy services, education/training and research. I feel the energy and enthusiasm in Hong Kong is receptive for growing allergy as a discipline. This will not happen overnight but the stronger we are as a professional society the more we can do to progress to our ultimate goal.

As with any change in leadership there will be curiosity about a new President's background and future plans. Rest assured that while there will be some changes in my tenure, my wish is to engender a feeling of ownership of our strategy by everyone in the HKIA; after all it is your Institute. The Council, officers and I are merely the stewards of HKIA for a brief period of time.

Some of you already know me, but others will not as I have only recently returned to Hong Kong from overseas although I was born in Hong Kong. I was President of the British Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. I was chairman of the joint committee for allergy and clinical immunology of the Royal College of Physicians (London) and Royal College of Pathologists in the UK. In addition I created a partnership between two universities (Imperial College and King's College London); their partner NHS hospitals; the patient charity Asthma UK; and the Medical Research Council to form the MRC Centre for Allergy and Asthma. Therefore I have a track record for growing a professional society with members' support; and for fostering productive collaborations across multiple sectors to develop allergy as a discipline. I recognize of course that Hong Kong is not the UK and that it has its own set of challenges. Nonetheless I hope my prior experience can be put to use for HKIA and its membership.

As President of HKIA I will honour and build on its past successes, celebrate the present and plan for the future.

I am committed to helping HKIA grow its legacy; to increase its public and professional profile; and to progress a tripartite agenda to help improve allergy services, create more opportunities for training of aspiring allergists; and to promote an environment to facilitate discovery of new knowledge. Please read the separate attachment for an overview of the proposed strategy over the next two years.

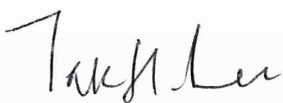
In short, I will try to make my Presidency one for growth, inclusivity, vision to inspire and energy (GIVE).

Please join us to shape a strong professional platform for the benefits of our allergic patients and betterment of health in Hong Kong. I will be inviting some of you to either Chair or join subcommittees and I hope you will accept the invitation when it arrives. I also invite you to volunteer to serve by joining a subcommittee of your interest (please see membership form later).

Meanwhile please feed back any comments or suggestions to me (thlee@hksh.com), Dr. Helen Chan (HKIA Honorary Secretary (helen.chan@vitagreen.com), or members on Council so that we can tailor make the work of the Institute to meet your needs.

If you are not currently a member, may I invite you join HKIA by contacting our secretariat (sigourney.liu@mims.com) and completing a simple form. Don't worry if you don't have a sponsor, I will find one for you. For those who are already members of HKIA, please complete the attached form below and return.

Yours faithfully



Dr. Tak-hong Lee
President
Hong Kong Institute of Allergy



To: Members of Hong Kong Institute of Allergy (HKIA)
From: Dr. Tak-hong Lee, President
Date: December 2014

Please take a moment of your valuable time and complete the information below so we can update our membership records. Membership of HKIA confers a substantial discount on registrations at our bi-annual convention (50% this year) and at future workshops as well as for social activities. You will receive a regular e-newsletter twice a year. Most important of all, you will be joining like minded colleagues to support the only professional society in Hong Kong dedicated to improving service provision; supporting research; and promoting education in allergy.

I hope you have read about HKIA's new agenda in the preceding letter to improve the discipline of Allergy in Hong Kong

Name: _____ (English) _____ (Chinese)

Jobtitle: _____

Department: _____

Hospital / Institute: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Mobile: _____

E-mail: _____ Fax: _____

I want to be considered for membership of _____ subcommittee (if appropriate).

Signature

Please return this form to: meeting.hk@mims.com or fax to: 2559 6910 as soon as possible