

President's Report at AGM 2017

Dr Tak Hong Lee

First, an enormous thank you to the officers, Council, advisors, members and the secretariat team at MIMS for their support during my Presidency! It's been my privilege and honour to serve HKIA these 3 years.

Time has flown and HKIA looks very different from 3 years ago. Its constitution has been revised to limit the time any Council members can serve. This creates opportunities for new colleagues to join Council and be involved with the governance of the Institute. The only exception is the honorary secretary who, while still needing to be re-elected at regular intervals, has no need to take a fallow period to ensure an element of continuity.

While it was crucial to make the changes already described, Council was deeply aware that it was essential to preserve the renowned friendships among the leadership team which have seen the Institute through thick and thin. The fact that this has been successfully implemented is a reflection of Council's visionary determination and the support from the membership-at-large.

As a result of much hard work from Council and its 10 new subcommittees, HKIA now offers travel and research grants. It honours deserving local and international colleagues of distinction through HKIA awards and a President's medal.

HKIA publishes regular newsletters, guidelines, position papers, scholarly articles and authoritative commentaries. It has an active presence on Facebook, Twitter as well as on its own website. It organises frequent educational seminars for doctors, nurses, dietitians and other allied health professionals. HKIA has worked with the Environmental Protection Department of the Government of the HKSAR to engage the public on urban pollution. In addition to organising its very successful international congresses every two years, HKIA will be hosting an annual scientific meeting every intervening year beginning in 2017. This means that we will now have a major HKIA sponsored allergy meeting annually. I am indebted to the organising and scientific committees as well as Carmen Mai of International Conference Consultants Ltd who has helped us with quiet efficiency to host our meetings for as long as I can remember.

In collaboration with other related societies and Allergy HK, public engagement has never been more active. Membership has almost doubled in 3 years with a massive increase in the category of allied health and there is now even a social programme for members.

Through the diligence of our treasurer and advisors, the finances of the Institute are very healthy and industry continues to provide significant unconditional grants for our ambitious educational initiatives. The profile of allergy in HK has never been higher. HKIA with AllergyHK are now often the first ports of call when there are media enquiries about hot items in the news about allergy. Long may this productive partnership between the professional platform and the charity dedicated to allergy continue!

The constant encouragement by HKIA and others has fostered environments which have facilitated the creation of two new drug allergy services in public hospitals in 2017; the creation of the first training post in adult allergy in 20 years; and maybe even the recent increase in numbers of paediatric allergy trainees.

While progress has been made, there is much more to do. The current representation of allergists in HK is only one allergist per 1.17million head of population which is very low. There are about 5 fold more paediatric allergists than adult allergists per head of population which needs to be rebalanced. HKIA has estimated that HK needs about 16 full time equivalent (FTE) paediatric allergists and 54 FTE adult allergists to meet a target of 1 allergist per 100,000 head of population. If this can be achieved HK will be close to international standards and will match other major medical specialties locally. HKIA has recommended the creation of at least two major Allergy Centres of Excellence in the public sector in HK to drive forward clinical practice, research and teaching.

What is the next step? My personal view is that the allergy community needs to develop a cogent business case. My past experience has shown that even when the logic, epidemiology and individual case histories are compelling, business managers and bodies such as the Hospital Authority (HA) also require a fully worked up business case to support allocation of resources. After all they have to weigh up competing priorities. Therefore I invite HKIA to consider how to arrive at a health economics analysis of allergy service provision. If it can be shown, as many of us believe, that establishment of allergy services in HK would actually save the HA money (as has already been shown for allergen-specific injection immunotherapy in the USA) and that any saved resources could be devolved to support other specialties, this would be very powerful evidence when negotiating an expansion of services in the discipline.

I am delighted that Dr Marco Ho is HKIA's next President. Marco is not only a past Chairman of Allergy HK but he is also a Consultant and Deputy Hospital Chief Executive at Queen Mary Hospital. Therefore he has extensive experience of working in a HA hospital and knows the right buttons to press. I am confident that he will bring forth new ideas and craft a vision to continue the momentum, embrace the challenges and lead HKIA to greater heights. He deserves our strongest support. The Institute is on a steep upward trajectory and there are outstanding and enthusiastic colleagues in place to help him drive HKIA's future agenda to honour our founders for the benefits of our community.

二零一七周年大會 主席報告 李德康醫生

首先，我在此非常感謝各位理事會成員、顧問、會員及秘書處 – MIMS (HK) Ltd 於我任內的支持！在這過去三年能為香港過敏科醫學會服務，我確實感到十分榮幸。

時光飛逝，香港過敏科醫學會在過去三年間，有很大的轉變。當中包括修訂理事會成員的最長任期，成員必須定期在周年大會中重新選出，此改動讓新的會員有加入理事會和參與學會工作的機會。為確保學會各項計劃的連貫性，榮譽秘書一職的任期仍維持不變。

縱然我們明白改變是關鍵的，但對歷屆理事會成員曾見證本會的順逆不容致疑，並需維繫成員間建立了深厚友誼。事實上，成功的改革亦足以證明理事會的團結及遠見，以及各會員的大力支持。

透過理事會和 10 個新小組委員的努力，香港過敏科醫學會現可贊助會員參加海外會議及進行有關過敏科的研究，並通過香港過敏科醫學會之榮譽獎項和會長獎牌，表揚對過敏科醫學有優越貢獻的本地和海外專才。

香港過敏科醫學會亦有出版會員通訊、醫學指引、立場報告、學術期刊及專業評論。學會消息更會於臉書 (Facebook)、推特 (Twitter) 及其網頁中積極更新。學會亦經常舉辦各項學術研討會，供醫生、護士、營養師及其他醫護專業人員參與。香港過敏科醫學會曾與香港特別行政區政府環境保護署合作，於城市污染的議題上，為公眾教育獻上一分力。此外，香港過敏科醫學會除了成功舉辦每兩年一度的國際研討會議，亦將於 2017 年開始主辦隔年的科研會議，這代表本會每年均會舉辦以過敏科為主題的會議。我也藉此感謝各主辦單位和學術委員會，及國際會議顧問有限公司的 Carmen Mai 女士，協助本會舉辦各個會議。

透過與其他相關學會和香港過敏協會的合作，公眾參與之踴躍程度更是前所未有的。本會現今的會員數目是三年前的兩倍，尤其是專職醫療人員類別。此外，本會更舉辦供會員參與的社交活動。

有賴本會能幹的財務秘書和顧問，本會的財政狀況非常穩健，而業界亦持續地支持本會，幫助各項過敏科的教育。近年大眾對過敏病亦高度關注，每當有熱門的過敏科話題，香港過敏科醫學會與香港過敏協會必成為各大傳媒的首個諮詢對象及被邀請提供專業意見。我亦藉此希望醫學會這專業平台及協會這慈善機構能繼續有效合作為過敏科作出貢獻。

香港過敏科醫學會在專才培訓方面也不為餘力，本會於 2017 年成功促使本港在兩所公立醫院成立藥物過敏測試服務；加設這二十年間第一個成人過敏科的專業訓練職位；以及近年兒童過敏科專才訓練的數字皆有上升的趨勢。

縱使學會有著一定的改善，我們仍有很多進步空間。現時香港的過敏病科專科醫生對市民的比例有嚴重失衡的現象，整體人口比例為 1:117 萬，成人人口比例是 1:280 萬，兒童人口的比例較好，是 1:54 萬，為成人人口比例的 5 倍，但仍需調整。

香港過敏科醫學會估計，我們需要 16 名全職兒科過敏病科專科醫生和 54 名全職的成人過敏病科專科醫生，從而達至醫生對市民比例為 1:10 萬的理想目標。若此標可達，香港過敏科專科醫生與市民的比例便能與國際標準相若，以及與其他專科的比例接近。香港過敏科醫學會建議於香港醫管局轄下的醫院中設立最少兩個專科中心，以提供臨床、研究及教育的工作。

下一步會是甚麼？我的個人看法是過敏團體應發展一個提高經濟效益的模型。從過往的經驗得知，即使有著合理及普及的需要，顯明的臨床病例，一些法定機構，如醫院管理局，仍需配合提高經濟效益的論據，以便當局衡量各相互競爭項目之資源分配優先順序。因此，我希望學會能從經濟角度分析研究提供優質過敏服務的最後得益。若能證明發展香港過敏服務可節省醫院管理局的開支（如已證於美國的過敏原注射免疫治療），其節省的資源便可用作支持其他醫學專科發展。這將會是與局方爭取擴大過敏科的服務範疇的一個非常有力的籌碼理據。

我很高興何學工醫生將會接任下屆香港過敏科醫學會的主席，何醫生不單是前香港過敏協會主席，更是瑪麗醫院副行政總監及顧問醫生。何醫生於醫院管理局轄下的醫院有豐富的工作經驗，有助敏感科的發展事半功倍。我很有信心，他不但能保持香港過敏科醫學會不斷向前的原動力，更帶來新的思維，接受挑戰創出新高。他實在值得我們的全力支持。學會正在不斷向前發展的軌道上，乘著出色、熱誠的同業努力，學會未來的發展定能為香港醫學界及市民作出重大的貢獻。