

The Past, The Present and the Future

Allergy in Hong Kong (1996 – 2016)





Table of Content

Congratulatory Messages	2
Hong Kong Institute of Allergy – the Past, the Present and the Future	26
Hong Kong Institute of Allergy – From its Birth to a New Chapter	30
List of Presidents	34
Council, Advisors and Subcommittees (2015 – 2017)	35
Editorial Board of eNewsletter (2015 – 2016)	36
Hong Kong Allergy Conventions	37
Scientific Events	38
Social Events	39
Press Conference and Public Education	40
World Allergy Congress 2015	41

Congratulatory Message

Since its inception in 1996, the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy has made significant efforts to promote the awareness of allergic diseases among medical professionals and the public. It also brings to the local medical community cutting edge knowledge on the management of allergic diseases and is committed to improving the well-being of patients suffering from allergy. The Institute has now become a 400-strong professional body whose members share a common goal of promoting the discipline of allergy in Hong Kong.



Allergies are among the most common chronic conditions affecting both adults and children. It is estimated that one in three children in Hong Kong suffer from at least one allergic condition. Statistics also show that more than 330,000 Hong Kong people suffer from asthma while some 400,000 patients treated by the Hospital Authority have drug allergies.

Mindful of the prevalence of this health problem, the Government has been taking active actions on all fronts. The Hospital Authority provides comprehensive treatment for patients with allergy. The Department of Health promotes ways to reduce the risk of developing allergies such as a smoke-free living environment and optimal infant and young child feeding practices. The Environmental Protection Department's efforts in improving air quality also contribute to allergy prevention.

Yet health education and disease prevention are by far the most important. The Institute has made commendable efforts over the past two decades to reach out to the community and the medical sector to enhance the management of allergic diseases in Hong Kong. On this auspicious occasion of its 20th anniversary, I would like to send my most sincere thanks to the Institute for its contributions to public health, and look forward to more of its good endeavours in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Carrie Lam".

Mrs. Carrie Lam

Chief Secretary for Administration

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Congratulatory Message

Allergy is one of the most common chronic illnesses in Hong Kong. It may take the form of allergic rhinitis, ocular allergy, atopic dermatitis, asthma, food allergy and insect allergy.

The Hospital Authority currently provides comprehensive services to support patients with allergy through paediatric specialists or adult physicians. There are also subspecialists such as respirologists and dermatologists who would help with more complicated allergy cases. The Department of Health has also been implementing measures such as controlling both active and passive tobacco smoking, promotion of breastfeeding and optimal infant and young child feeding practices which are conducive to the prevention of allergy.



I am pleased to learn that coupled with the efforts of the Government on prevention of allergy, the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy has also worked tirelessly on the promotion of awareness of allergic diseases. Since its establishment in 1996, the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy has organised numerous medical symposia and public talks which promote the awareness of allergic diseases among medical professionals and the public and provide the latest information on the management of allergic diseases. The Institute's contributions are highly commendable and I wish the Institute every success in future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. Ko'.

Dr. Wing-man Ko, BBS, JP

Secretary for Food and Health
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
and
Patron
Hong Kong Institute of Allergy

Congratulatory Message



香港過敏科醫學會成立二十週年誌慶

精研醫術
造福病黎

食物及衛生局副局長陳肇始



Congratulatory Message

I congratulate the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy on its 20th Anniversary. Over the past two decades, the Institute and its members have played a pivotal role in promoting the awareness of allergic diseases among the public, bringing cutting-edge knowledge and skill to medical professionals, and improving the well-being of patients.



No doubt the bi-annual Hong Kong Allergy Convention with the theme this year of “Novel Strategies for Prevention and Treatment of Allergic Disorders” will pull together international and local experts to share ground-breaking advances and new approaches to clinical practice in Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

Allergic diseases and environmental protection are closely linked – recent researches included asthma on a list of possible health risks from global warming, not to mention that ambient air quality is known to be the cause of a number of allergic diseases. I look forward to continuing the collaboration between the Environment Bureau and the Institute to better protect the people of Hong Kong from allergic diseases.

I wish the HKIA every success in coming years.



Ms. Christine Loh

Under Secretary for the Environment
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Congratulatory Message

I am delighted to extend my congratulations to the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy on its 20th anniversary.

Allergic disorders are common issues in this part of the world due to various reasons such as weather, diet, lifestyle and the like. Over the past two decades, the Institute has not only played a significant role in raising public awareness and understanding of allergies but also in creating valuable training opportunities for aspiring allergists and allied health professionals.



The 2016 Hong Kong Allergy Convention will provide a platform for allergists, clinicians from related specialties and allied health professionals from Hong Kong and overseas to exchange ideas and insights to further enhance knowledge in order to improve the treatment of allergies. I am certain that all participants will benefit from the wisdom and experience of distinguished local and international speakers this year.

On this memorable occasion, I congratulate the Institute on its many achievements over the years and I wish the Institute all the best in every future endeavour.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Leong', written over a large, stylized, hand-drawn outline of a teardrop or leaf shape.

Professor John Leong

Chairman
Hospital Authority

Congratulatory Message



祝賀香港過敏科醫學會成立二十週年

專才卓術
博施濟眾

香港大學李嘉誠醫學院院長梁卓偉



敬賀

Congratulatory Message

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy, it is an honour and a great pleasure for me to offer my congratulations and best wishes to the President and all members of the Institute.



Allergic diseases, being one of the commonest chronic non-communicable diseases, undermine the health and wealth of a society. The world has witnessed an unprecedented upsurge in the prevalence of allergic diseases. This upsurge is found to be closely coupled with environmental risk factors, emerging in nations pursuing globalized economic development patterns and life styles. The foresight and vision of the founding members some 20 years ago to form the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy are laudable – taking the mission of promoting awareness and raising a sense of urgency in our society about allergic diseases as personal responsibilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the founding members, all generations of office bearers, healthcare professionals for their innumerable and sterling contributions in improving the quality of life of patients with allergic disorders in past years.

May I once again congratulate the Institute on this milestone of achievement! With the collective talents of its members, I trust that the Institute will grow from strength to strength in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francis Chan', written in a cursive style.

Professor Francis Chan
Dean, Faculty of Medicine
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Congratulatory Message

On behalf of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, it gives me great pleasure to extend our sincere congratulations to the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy (HKIA) on the 20th anniversary.



Allergic diseases are among the most common leading cause of chronic diseases, some of which could be life-threatening. It is a growing public health issue that needs to be appropriately investigated, and requires more innovation in treatment through the use of preventive medications. The HKIA has devoted much attention to research on advances in treatment. Building on its achievements, I am confident that the HKIA will continue to organise excellent programmes to train physicians and allied health professionals in the discipline of Allergy, promote excellence in clinical services, as well as provide public education on allergy awareness.

I look forward to the Hong Kong International Allergy Convention, entitled “Novel Strategies for Prevention and Treatment of Allergic Disorders” in October 2016 and the publication of an educational booklet about allergy. The series of celebration activities will not only leverage collective wisdom of the allergy experts worldwide, but also offer a most rewarding experience.

As the HKIA celebrates its 20th anniversary, I applaud its excellent accomplishments and commend its dedication to helping in the prevention of allergic diseases. I wish the HKIA every success and prosperity in the many years to come.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Donald Li

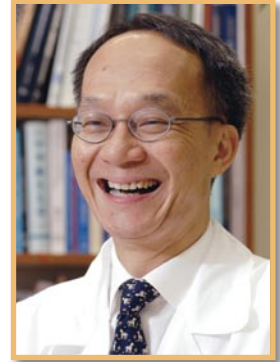
President

Hong Kong Academy of Medicine

Congratulatory Message

Allergy is a major disease burden for Hong Kong citizens, including our children. Our College is grateful to the continuing contribution of the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy in advocating better care for this group of patients and educating our community in the past 20 years. Under your new leadership, I could feel the momentum of the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy in her fresh pursuit of great vision to benefit our community.

On behalf of our College, I wish you and the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy great success in your many mission in the years to come.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yu Lung". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Professor Yu-lung Lau

President

Hong Kong College of Paediatricians

Congratulatory Message

On behalf of The Hong Kong College of Pathologists, I wish to convey our congratulations to The Hong Kong Institute of Allergy on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

Over the past two decades, The Hong Kong Institute of Allergy has been playing an important role in promoting the discipline of allergy and the awareness of allergic diseases among medical professionals and the public. The success of The Hong Kong Institute of Allergy has been achieved via the concerted efforts of its members.



May we wish The Hong Kong Institute of Allergy continued success in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annie Cheung'.

Professor Annie Cheung

President

The Hong Kong College of Pathologists

Congratulatory Message

On behalf of the Hong Kong College of Physicians, I would like to congratulate the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy on her 20th Anniversary. Immunology and Allergy is an important yet under-developed specialty in Hong Kong. Over the past two decades, the Institute has worked tirelessly to enhance awareness of allergic diseases among our local medical professionals and the public, published guidelines on good practice in the management of various allergy disorders, supported training and research, and lobbied for support for the development of training programme and clinical service in Immunology and Allergy in the public sector.



Our College warmly wishes the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy every success on her 20th Anniversary and in the years ahead. We are confident that through your endeavours, the standard of care for patient with allergy and related disorders will continue to improve for the benefit of our population.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Li', with a small dot above the final 'i'.

Dr. Patrick Li

President

Hong Kong College of Physicians

Congratulatory Message



香港過敏科醫學會二十周年會慶

醫患同行
平敏復原

香港醫學會副會長周伯展敬題
丙申年初夏

Congratulatory Message

It is my great pleasure to write this congratulation message to The Hong Kong Institute of Allergy on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary Celebration for the successful organisation of Hong Kong Allergy Convention 2016.



The Hong Kong Institute of Allergy was founded in 1996, by a group of Allergists, Chest Physicians, Paediatricians and Dermatologists, to promote the discipline of allergy. The Hong Kong Institute of Allergy aims to promote the awareness of allergic diseases among medical professionals and the public, to bring cutting edge knowledge on management of allergic diseases to the medical community in Hong Kong, and to improve the well-being of patients suffering from allergy. Hong Kong Allergy Convention 2016 that is going to be held on 8 - 9 Oct 2016 themed “Novel Strategies for Prevention and Treatment of Allergic Disorders” would be one of the highlights of 20th Anniversary Celebration of the foundation of the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy.

The Federation of the Medical Societies of Hong Kong, as an umbrella organisation of 138 members societies with the missions to promote a high standard of practice by medical, dental and nursing professionals in Hong Kong. We would like to take this opportunity to convey our warmest congratulation to the Organising Committee for their dedication in preparing Hong Kong Allergy Convention 2016 to advocate awareness and advanced management of allergic diseases among medical professionals and the publics in Hong Kong. Under the capable leadership of President Dr. Lee Tak-hong and his Council, I am sure the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy will surely continue to flourish in years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mario Chak'.

Dr. Mario Chak

President

The Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong

Congratulatory Message

Dear Professor Lee,

On behalf of the CHEST Delegation Hong Kong and Macau, may I congratulate the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy for her 20th Anniversary.

Asthma and Allergy share major similarity in terms of diagnostic and management strategies, just like the way the HKIA and the CHEST Delegation Hong Kong and Macau share common goals of strengthening professional development as well as education through collegiality. We are glad to see some of our office bearers and key opinion leaders in the CHEST Delegation Hong Kong and Macau who are also HKIA Council Members. This provides a solid foundation for us to work together for the betterment of professional and public education on Allergy and Asthma.



Happy Anniversary to HKIA!



Dr. David Lam

President

CHEST Delegation Hong Kong and Macau

Congratulatory Message

On behalf of the Hong Kong Allergy Association, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy (HKIA) on your 20th anniversary. We are extremely impressed by your sturdy growth during the past two decades, as well as deeply moved by your huge contributions to the allergy community.

On this special occasion, we offer our best wishes for your continued success and relentless pursuit of excellence.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fanny Lam'.

Dr. Fanny Lam

Chairman

The Hong Kong Allergy Association

Congratulatory Message

Allergy is a very common spectrum of diseases that we encounter in our daily practice, no matter what specialty we are working on. However, the local training in the field of allergy has been lagging behind comparing to many developed countries. Such task has mainly been through the local learned society and I am glad that the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy took up a lion share of this responsibility in the past 20 years. I witness the growth of this society and I wish that she will continue to contribute to the field of allergy in the future.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Chan'.

Professor Godfrey Chan
President
The Hong Kong Paediatric Society

Congratulatory Message

On behalf of the Hong Kong Society of Paediatric Respiriology and Allergy, I would like to congratulate the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy in celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year.

Over these years, we all witnessed the outstanding achievements and efforts of the society, including organizing state of art conferences, symposia, and writing up of various guidelines for the health profession. Especially, I congratulate President Dr. Lee Tak-hong for leading the Institute to address the challenging needs of the population and becoming an admirable leader of the medical world.



In celebrating the 20 years of great achievements, may I extend my best wishes for the Institute for its search for excellence in coming years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miu', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Ting-yat Miu

President

Hong Kong Society of Paediatric Respiriology and Allergy

Congratulatory Message

Dear Professor Lee,

On behalf of the Hong Kong Thoracic Society, I heartily congratulate the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy on its 20th anniversary.

The Hong Kong Institute of Allergy has spared no effort to develop this highly specialised branch of medicine for past two decades, thereby improving the standard of allergy services in Hong Kong. Its long dedication to holding the renowned allergy conventions biennially has achieved resounding success and received intense appreciation, and that has already become an important event in the conference calendar of different medical specialties and disciplines in Hong Kong and beyond.



Hong Kong Thoracic Society feels particularly joyous at this auspicious occasion of the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy, as we have witnessed its development and great achievements over the years, and also because of the special ties between colleagues of both organisations. We have been sharing not only the professionalism on caring respiratory allergy diseases, but also our mutual commitments with some of the councils or advisors of Hong Kong Thoracic Society being active members or officials of the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy.

We sincerely wish Hong Kong Institute of Allergy continued success for the many more years to come!

Happy Birthday, Hong Kong Institute of Allergy!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Loletta So'.

Dr. Loletta So

President

Hong Kong Thoracic Society

Congratulatory Message

Allergy is a group of important conditions that are widely encountered by doctors of all specialties. These conditions can range from mild to chronic illnesses, like allergic rhinitis, to acute and severe incidents like anaphylactic shock from insect stings, drugs or foods. Doctors should therefore be armed with a good understanding of the basic principles and the ability to deal with conditions that they may encounter in their practices. Unfortunately, knowledge and training in this area of medicine is often inadequate, and the number of specialists is in short supply. Furthermore, there has been substantial advances in the knowledge of treatment and prevention in recent years. I therefore think it is an excellent initiative for the Council of the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy to organize this series of Conference and Publications at the 20th Anniversary of the Foundation.



I would like to congratulate the President Dr. Lee Tak-hong on his leadership and wish the Council every success in the celebration and activities. I am certain both doctors and the public will have much to gain from participation in the Programme.

Lam Tat Chung

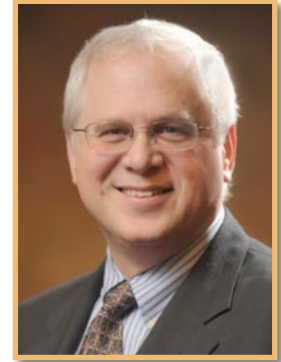
Dr. Paul Lam

President

The Society of Physicians of Hong Kong

Congratulatory Message

On behalf of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI), it is a great honor to congratulate the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy (HKIA) on the 20th Anniversary of its founding. HKIA has become a vibrant, growing organization with an unyielding mission to support patients who suffer from allergic diseases and physicians who care for them. Your vast contributions to allergy and immunology are evident in your high quality biennial conference and the large number of programs you have in place. These programs are a strong support for Hong Kong physicians who practise in this exciting field, and the patients they see.



The global incidence of allergy and related diseases such as asthma and anaphylaxis continues to grow, as does the complexity of the patients who suffer from these issues. HKIA is on the forefront of public engagement, research and publications, and the training of specialists and allied health professionals who are so critical to success in treating patients.

I am personally honored to be at this year's conference, and ACAAI is honored to support our Hong Kong colleagues. I am certain HKIA will continue to grow, prosper and provide increasing support to the allergy immunology community for the next twenty years.



Professor Bryan L. Martin

President

American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

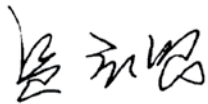
Congratulatory Message

Dear colleagues and friends

On behalf of the Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology (APAAACI), I am pleased to express my sincere congratulation to the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy on its 20th Anniversary of foundation.



From the beginning, HKIA, one of the most important member societies of APAAACI, has played an outstanding role in the establishment of the discipline of allergy in Hong Kong as well as in the regional area. Building on its remarkable achievement, I wish HKIA to make a strong professional society for the advance of science and management of allergic diseases.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Moon Hee-bom'.

Professor Hee-bom Moon

President

Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology

Congratulatory Message

Many congratulations on reaching this important milestone from the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology. We very much hope that Allergy can continue to progress and become a full medical discipline in Hong Kong allowing training of specialists in Allergy to meet the need of our patients.



Dr. Shuaib Nasser

President

British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology



Congratulatory Message

I wish to offer my personal and heartfelt congratulations to the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy on its 20th Anniversary. The setting up of this highly effective professional organisation, concerned with better understanding of the causes of allergy and how allergic disease can be effectively treated, has been a landmark in the creation and uptake of evidence in this field of medicine. In particular, its Founding members Dr. Donald Yu, the late Dr. William Yip, Dr. Helen Chan, Dr. Patrick Yuen, Dr. John Leung, Dr. Christopher Lai and the late Dr. Avery Chan deserve to be especially credited with their foresight in establishing such a successful and world-renowned organisation. Of great relevance is that the HKIA has been so active at a time when in Hong Kong and neighbouring Asian countries allergy, in all its forms, is on the increase. It is therefore most timely that the subject chosen for your 2016 Conference is *Novel Strategies for Prevention and Treatment of Allergic Disorders*.



Looking to the future, the HKIA is playing an enormous contribution to increasing training and educational opportunities as well as research funding in all aspects of allergy. A recent focus on environmental issues linked to allergy such as air pollution, housing and lifestyle is also most encouraging because these are modifiable drivers of disease and suffering in our patients.

Here in Southampton, we feel a very special link to the HKIA with frequent professional exchanges and visits in both directions. We look forward to continuing to work together in the future and to benefit from the always warm and convivial relationships we have developed with you all over the years.

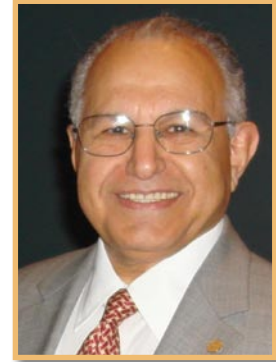
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen T. Holgate". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Professor Stephen T. Holgate

MRC Clinical Professor of Immunopharmacology and Honorary Consultant Physician
Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton
United Kingdom

Congratulatory Message

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the HKIA on its 20th Anniversary. I remember when Dr. Helen Chan mentioned to me, during an ACAAI annual meeting in the mid-1990s her intention of strengthening the allergy specialty in Hong Kong. The HKIA was officially founded in 1996 and its first convention was held in December 1998. The success exceeded expectations and stimulated holding the second convention in January 2001, and the event became biennial since.



I was greatly honored by participating in each HKIA's convention and was always impressed by the program's timely topics and expert speakers. In addition to the excellent local and regional faculty, the program always included multiple distinguished speakers from North America and Europe. The strength of the scientific program was always paralleled with warm collegiality and great hospitality.

Within a short period of 20 years, HKIA grew as a prominent organization in Southeast Asia and developed partnerships with major allergy societies worldwide. I strongly commend its capable and dedicated leaders who over those years included (in alphabetic order): Helen Chan, Jane Chan, Alice Ho, Fanny Ko, Christopher Lai, Roland Leung, Robert Tseng, Gary Wong, Adrian Wu, William Yip, Donald Yu, and several others.

The recent leadership of Professor Tak-hong Lee has already proved very fruitful. I am confident the HKIA's activities will continue its growth in enhancing allergy education of medical professionals, increasing public awareness, and advancing patient care.

Sincerely,

Sami L. Bahna

Professor Sami L. Bahna

Chief of Allergy & Immunology
Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center
USA

Hong Kong Institute of Allergy – the Past, the Present and the Future

This year is the 20th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy (HKIA). It is the privilege of the President and Council to shepherd the Institute through the year of celebration of which the centerpiece is the International Allergy Convention (8 – 9 October 2016 · *Novel Strategies for Prevention and Treatment of Allergic Disorders*). This year's scientific festival is a collaboration between ourselves as the host and the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology, European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology and the American College of Allergy Asthma and Immunology.



The HKIA's biennial Convention has always been a notable event in the Conference Calendar and HKIA is delighted to welcome again an exceptional faculty, our distinguished guests as well as many longstanding and new friends to join in the festivities. Thank you very much for your support.

The Past

The HKIA was founded in 1996 by a group of like minded colleagues as a professional forum for fellowship, education and scientific exchange in Allergy. While HKIA has made progress, it has not been an easy journey to grow Allergy as a discipline in Hong Kong. Specialists at the universities including but not exclusive to those in General Medicine, Respiratory Medicine, Otorhinolaryngology, Paediatrics and Dermatology have done their best to teach students about the management of some allergic diseases. However the relative lack of Allergy specialists in Hong Kong has hampered further growth of the discipline. In the absence of specialists there can be no trainers and without trainers there can be no trainees, so the problem becomes self perpetuating. This is not of course a problem unique to Hong Kong.

Several key developments for the discipline of Allergy in Hong Kong, partly fortuitously and partly by design, came together in 2014 to transform a stream into a flood releasing a cascade of renewed enthusiasm and activity. These developments included the recognition after several years of epidemiological research at our own Universities and at Institutions overseas that Hong Kong is in the midst of an allergy epidemic. Many allergic diseases in HK, such as food allergies, were becoming increasingly common and severe as seen in the rest of the world including mainland China and the Asia Pacific.

At the same time an informal grouping, named the Hong Kong Allergy Alliance, was convened to provide a leadership framework to integrate separate groups into a collective multi-professional voice to promote the discipline and to lobby for better clinical services for allergic patients.

The Allergy Alliance's first major project was to survey the provision of Allergy Services in Hong Kong. Its findings highlighted the markedly insufficient numbers of Allergy-trained doctors in Hong Kong, especially in adult medicine. The paediatric population was better served and there was a successful Paediatric Immunology and Infectious Diseases training programme. Nonetheless the numbers of Paediatric Allergists were also inadequate as the Paediatricians involved were only working part time in Allergy. Furthermore as there were no adult Allergists in the public sector transitional care for allergy from childhood to adulthood was a major difficulty.

The Present

The unmet need had to be addressed and thus a sleepy dragon was awakened. HKIA and the Hong Kong Allergy Alliance had already been working closely together and in 2015 their activities were combined to avoid duplication. This integration occurred at a key moment in HKIA's history as the Institute had already decided to increase the breadth of its activities a few months earlier following a comprehensive strategy planning meeting. Ten subcommittees were formed including one on service development. Each subcommittee had a challenging portfolio to promote major policy areas. MIMS was appointed to provide a much needed Secretariat. Finally we were delighted when Dr. Wing-man Ko, Secretary for Food and Health of Hong Kong, accepted our invitation to become the Institute's Patron. Therefore a strong leadership platform had been created to drive forward HKIA's ambitious agenda.

In the last 18 months HKIA is on a remarkably steep upward trajectory. Under the guidance of Dr. Johnny Chan and Dr. Kit-man Sin the membership has almost doubled overall. Even more striking has been the enormous interest shown by allied health professionals, especially nurses and dietitians, who appear to have an insatiable thirst to learn about allergic disorders and their management. There is an impressive 4-fold increase in the numbers of members in the allied health professionals' category driven by the leadership of Ms. June Chan and Ms. Maggie Lit.

HKIA now hosts frequent symposia and courses in Allergy which are always fully attended and sometimes even over-subscribed. HKIA has published already several clinical Allergy practice guidelines for Hong Kong and others will follow. Dr. Helen Chan, Dr. Fanny Ko and Dr. Gilbert Chua have established an informative mobile optimized webpage, facebook and twitter digital platforms so that HKIA can reach more people. The Institute publishes two newsletters annually edited by Dr. Jane Chan and her team of sub-editors. Articles on important developments in Allergy involving

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’.

HKIA offers scholarships to its members to train overseas and provides travel grants for them to attend Allergy conferences. In addition Professor Gary Wong and colleagues have launched a new competitive pilot grant scheme funded by HKIA that will support collection of preliminary data by HKIA members to strengthen subsequent applications to major research agencies.

Finally HKIA is amending its constitution to enlarge the size of its governing Council and to establish defined terms of service for its members so that younger colleagues can be recruited to be nurtured as future leaders.

As a result of all the new activities, the profile of the discipline in Hong Kong has increased markedly. While it is unrealistic to expect clinical services to have been transformed in less than two years, training in Allergy has been enhanced significantly. For instance the training curriculum for adult Allergy has been revised and will be approved shortly by the Hong Kong College of Physicians. Moreover at Queen Mary Hospital/HKU 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 has been established. At Prince of Wales Hospital/CUHK 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 are also investigating training and career opportunities in Allergy.

The Institute cannot drive forward its agenda alone and it is delighted to have a productive collaboration and/or dialogue with partners that include but not limited to HK Allergy Association; Environment Protection Department of the HKSAR Government; sister societies in related disciplines; the Federation of Medical Societies; the Universities; the respective Hong Kong Colleges of Physicians, Paediatricians and Pathologists; The Hospital Authority; and the Industry.

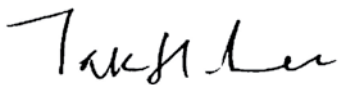
The Future

HKIA is committed to continue promoting a vigorous tripartite agenda at the clinical/academic interface to help improve Allergy services; create more opportunities for training of aspiring Allergists and other health professionals with an Allergy interest; and to promote an environment to facilitate discovery of new knowledge, for example in the fast growing area of allergy prevention. It wants to grow in an inclusive manner with vision and energy. This will not happen overnight but HKIA is making gratifying progress.

The recent significant influx of new Allergy trainees and fellows is very encouraging and bodes well for the future growth of the discipline in Hong Kong. The challenge now is to develop an exit strategy so that Allergy trainees have a clear career path after they complete their training.

For our junior doctors there is no better time to become an Allergist. The clinical load of allergic disease is enormous and specialists are urgently required. A powerful array of molecular and bioinformatic tools are now available to dissect mechanisms of disease at relatively low cost. This will help to identify biomarkers, which will facilitate definition of allergic disease subtypes. In turn this knowledge can be exploited to provide increasingly personalised approaches to existing and new therapies. I cannot recall a more exciting time to be practicing medicine and Allergic Diseases provide unique opportunities.

In the next decade or less, I am confident that HKIA under the guidance of a vibrant leadership and a supportive membership will realize the aspirations of its visionary founders for the benefit of our professional and patient communities.



Dr. Tak-hong Lee

President

Hong Kong Institute of Allergy

September 2016

Hong Kong Institute of Allergy – From its Birth to a New Chapter

In the early 1990s, unlike North America and other regions, allergic disorders were under-recognized in Hong Kong and public knowledge of allergies was very poor. The study of allergy was not regarded as a medical discipline, despite its long history of more than a century. Healthcare professionals had limited knowledge of allergic diseases. Hence, root causes of allergic diseases were often missed or unaddressed and preventative strategies were not adopted as they should be. Back then, only a meagre minority of physicians accepted allergy testing; many found immunotherapy a far-fetched myth, even akin to witchcraft. The lack of formal training for allergy specialists had hampered right and effective treatment for allergy sufferers.



In light of the dire need of allergy awareness among medical professionals amid growing prevalence of allergic disorders in Hong Kong, a group of dermatologists, otolaryngologists, paediatricians and respiratory physicians gave birth to the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy (HKIA) in 1996. The missions of the HKIA are to introduce and promote allergy as a medical discipline and to foster a professional forum for fellowship and scientific exchange for the benefits of allergic patients in Hong Kong. Since its launch, the HKIA has been recruiting members from different medical and allied health disciplines. It is dedicated to bringing cutting-edge knowledge on the management of allergic diseases in the medical community, training aspiring allergists and allied health professionals, and promoting clinical services and research as well as public education.

Over the last two decades, the HKIA has established strong connections with local, regional and international allergy organizations, including the Hong Kong Allergy Association, the World Allergy Organization, the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI), Asia Pacific Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology (APAAACI), the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI), the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) and the Japanese Society of Allergology (JSA). The close ties between HKIA and these professional associations allow us to support each other in scientific exchange and promoting activities related to the allergy discipline, both in Hong Kong and internationally.

In the past twenty years, conventions have formed a great part of the agenda of HKIA. Our first Hong Kong Allergy Convention (HKAC) was supported by the ACAAI and successfully held in 1998. The convention featured distinguished overseas speakers to share their knowledge and insights in the latest advances on the management of allergy and asthma and attracted many local and international delegates to attend. This convention brought international attention and recognition to the HKIA and has now become a highly reputed event held biennially in the city. Until now, it is an important part of the conference calendar for a wide spectrum of medical professionals, including general practitioners, allergists, immunologists and related disciplines, and allied health professionals, in Hong Kong and beyond. We are looking forward to the 9th HKAC to be held at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre on 8 – 9 October 2016 with the support of ACAAI, BSACI and EAACI.

The HKIA is working to establish more partnerships in the Pan-Asian region. Notably, the HKIA is most excited for the opportunity to bid for organizing the APAAACI convention in Hong Kong in 2020. This will be undoubtedly another milestone in the history of HKIA.

What must also be mentioned is HKIA's work with mainland China. In earlier years, HKIA has supported the mainland to develop allergy as a discipline. Through our collaborations, the mainland has successfully developed their own systems to provide sustainable training for allergy-related medical personnel in Guangzhou, Beijing, Shanxi and Xian. It is HKIA's honour to witness the fast-paced growth of the allergy discipline in China over a span of two decades.

Educating medical doctors and allied health professionals have been a top priority of HKIA. Besides organizing conventions for knowledge exchange, the HKIA also sponsors members to attend local and international scientific meetings, offers scholarships annually for training, study or research programmes overseas, and hosts many medical symposia and clinical meetings to update members on recent scientific advances in allergy. The HKIA endeavours to facilitate professional development of its members and to translate knowledge to clinical practice, which ultimately benefits patients who have been struggling to cope with allergic diseases. After almost twenty years of hard work, the HKIA is reaping rewards of increasing recognition of allergy among medical practitioners and growing acceptance of allergy testing. This is clearly evident in the availability of allergy testing in almost every diagnostic laboratory in the city, reflecting a high demand for allergy assessments prescribed by practitioners.

Promoting allergy as a recognized medical discipline has been a major goal of the HKIA. In recent years, the HKIA has been liaising with the two medical schools in Hong Kong to establish a standalone Department of Allergy. With sufficient funding, the HKIA wishes to secure professorships specific to allergy at the two universities. We strongly believe that only

with an official, established department in the medical schools can sustainable development of the discipline be achieved. These institutional changes can springboard more doctors to become clinical allergists or immunologists to meet the high unmet needs of allergy patients. In this regard, the HKIA will continue to persuade the universities to pioneer professional training for the making of more in-demand allergy specialists.

Supporting clinical research is also one of the clear objectives of the HKIA. Throughout the years, the HKIA has funded research on epidemiological and clinical studies of asthma, food allergies, allergic rhinitis and other allergic disorders. It has also participated in large-scale studies, such as the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC). The HKIA continues to explore ways to help research efforts, including support for implementation of a translational research approach through clinical academic centres of excellence. In the future and when funds are available, it may also initiate research in other areas, such as validation or repudiation of unconventional allergy diagnostic tests being offered to patients.

Promoting public education and improving the wellbeing of allergy patients are essential missions of HKIA. The Institute has hosted many public talks and press conferences and published educational articles on newspapers to help the public understand more about common allergic disorders, such as allergic rhinitis, ocular allergy, atopic dermatitis, asthma, food allergy and insect allergy, and how they are managed. The HKIA also partners the Environmental Protection Department to educate the public on the health risk of air quality and what they can do to protect the environment through a series of YouTube videos.

With an increasing demand for dedicated clinical services, the HKIA has been most proud to have pushed forward the setup of two allergy clinics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Patients may now have proper allergy assessments and treatment by doctors' referral. Yet, the HKIA envisions more specialty clinics operating in different areas in Hong Kong to improve patients' accessibility to clinical services related to allergy. It is continuing to work closely with the public and private sectors to accomplish this goal.

From our humble beginnings, the HKIA has now developed to a substantial body of over seven hundred members. The HKIA should rightly proud of its achievements, but none could have happened without the foresight and commitment of the many who have journeyed with us. We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude for the following people: the founding members, the late Dr. Avery Chan, Dr. Ka-ho Chan, Dr. Jane Chan, Dr. Christopher Lai, Dr. John Leung, Professor William Wei, the late Dr. William Yip, Dr. Donald Yu, Dr. Hip-cho Yu and Dr. Patrick Yuen, and the generations of Council Members for their hard work and

dedication; the current HKIA President, Dr. Tak-hong Lee, for his leadership and support; and Dr. Sami Bahna, who was the President of ACAAI when we first started, for his mentorship and timely assistance throughout the years. Special thanks to Dr. John Leung who has given the name of “Hong Kong Institute of Allergy” and its spirits! With continued support from our members and partners, the HKIA is confident that our remarkable successes will be sustained and expanded in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Chan'.

Dr. Helen Chan

Honorary Secretary

Hong Kong Institute of Allergy

August 2016 (written on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary)

List of Presidents

The Hong Kong Institute of Allergy, under the leaderships of the presidents, has now developed into a substantial medical organization of over seven hundred members.



Dr. Donald Yu
(1996 – 2000)



Professor William Wei
(2000 – 2004)



Dr. Christopher Lai
(2004 – 2008)



Dr. Jane Chan
(2008 – 2012)



Dr. Robert Tseng
(2012 – 2014)



Dr. Tak-hong Lee
(2014 – 2016)

Council (2015 - 2017)

Patron	Dr. Wing-man Ko		
President	Dr. Tak-hong Lee		
Vice President	Dr. Fanny Ko		
Honorary Secretary	Dr. Helen Chan		
Honorary Treasurer	Dr. Sheng-sheng Ho		
Council Members	Dr. Alson Chan Dr. Johnny Chan Professor Chak-sing Lau Dr. Kit-man Sin	Dr. Henry Chan Dr. Marco Ho Dr. Roland Leung Professor Gary Wong	Dr. Jane Chan Dr. Christopher Lai Professor Ting-fan Leung Dr. Adrian Wu
Advisors	Professor Ellis Hon Dr. Alfred Tam Dr. John Woo	Professor Yu-lung Lau Dr. Tak-fu Tse Dr. Donald Yu	Dr. Daniel Ng Dr. Robert Tseng Dr. Patrick Yuen

Subcommittees (2015 - 2017)

	Chairs	Members
Scientific Programme and Research	Professor Ting-fan Leung Professor Gary Wong	Dr. Pui-yee Lo
Public Engagement	Dr. Henry Chan Dr. Marco Ho	
Publication	Dr. Jane Chan	Dr. Temy Mok
Social Programme	Dr. Robert Tseng	Dr. Alson Chan Dr. Gilbert Chua
Membership	Dr. Johnny Chan Dr. Kit-man Sin	Dr. Yat-sun Yau
Education, Training and Fellowships	Dr. Fanny Ko Dr. Adrian Wu	Dr. Veronica Chan Dr. Kwok-chu Kwong Dr. Philip Li
Immunology	Dr. Eric Chan Dr. Roland Leung	Dr. Elaine Au Dr. Temy Mok
Service Development	Dr. Christopher Lai Dr. Tak-hong Lee	
Allied Health Professionals and Health Promotion	Ms. June Chan Ms. Maggie Lit	
Finance	Dr. Sheng-sheng Ho Dr. Tak-fu Tse	



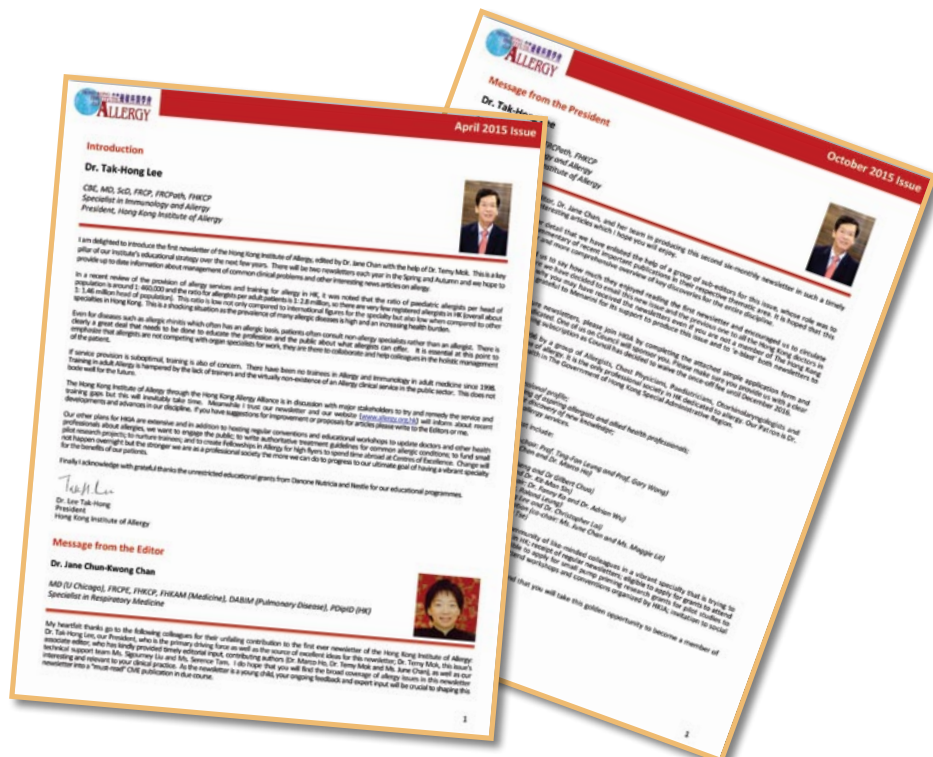
Council members greeted our Patron, Dr. Wing-man Ko at a dinner function

Editorial Board of eNewsletter (2015 – 2016)

Editor-in-Chief : Dr. Jane Chan

Assistant Editor : Dr. Temy Mok

Air Pollution	Dr. Jane Chan	Respiratory Medicine
	Dr. Kwok-chu Kwong	Respiratory Medicine
Asthma	Dr. Veronica Chan	Respiratory Medicine
	Dr. Lai-yun Ng	Respiratory Medicine
Ear, Nose & Throat	Dr. Ambrose Ho	Otorhinolaryngology
	Dr. Jacky Lam	Otorhinolaryngology
	Dr. Pui-yeet Lo	Otorhinolaryngology
Food Allergy	Dr. Alfred Tam	Paediatrics
	Dr. Marco Ho	Paediatric Immunology and Infectious Diseases
Skin Allergy	Dr. Johnny Chan	Dermatology and Venereology
Immunology/Drug Allergy	Dr. Eric Y Chan	Immunology
	Dr. Temy Mok	Rheumatology
General Allergy	Dr. Tak-hong Lee	Immunology and Allergy
	Dr. Alson Chan	Paediatric Immunology and Infectious Diseases
	Ms. Maggie Lit	Advanced Practice Nurse, Medicine

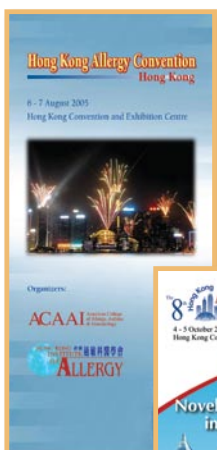


Hong Kong Allergy Conventions

The Hong Kong Institute of Allergy organizes biennially the Hong Kong Allergy Convention (HKAC). It features distinguished overseas speakers to share their knowledge and insights in the latest advances on the management of allergy and asthma. The very first HKAC was supported by the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI) and successfully held in 1998. Since that time HKAC has become an important convention in the conference calendar for medical professionals, including general practitioners, allergists, immunologists and related disciplines, and allied health professionals. ACAAI continues to be our close partner in the organization of HKACs.

List of HKAC

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| December 1998 | 1st Hong Kong Allergy Convention |
| January 2001 | 2nd Hong Kong Allergy Convention |
| 17 – 19 January 2003 | 3rd Hong Kong Allergy Convention |
| 6 – 7 August 2005 | 4th Hong Kong Allergy Convention |
| 8 – 9 December 2007 | 5th Hong Kong Allergy Convention |
| 27 – 28 November 2010 | 6th Hong Kong Allergy Convention |
| 15 – 16 September 2012 | 7th Hong Kong Allergy Convention |
| 4 – 5 October 2014 | 8th Hong Kong Allergy Convention |
| 8 – 9 October 2016 | 9th Hong Kong Allergy Convention |



HKAC 2007



HKAC 2010



Dinner at Jumbo Restaurant at HKAC 2010



Keynote Address by Dr. Wing-man Ko at the Opening Ceremony of HKAC 2012



HKAC 2014

Scientific Events

Educating doctors and allied health professionals has been a top priority of the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy. HKIA organizes many scientific meetings and certificate courses to update the knowledge of healthcare professionals. Just to name a few, the Certificate Course on Diagnosis and Management of Allergy co-organized with the Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong and the Pediatric Allergy Prevention Workshop co-organized with the Nestlé Nutrition Institute.



HKIA has also co-organized with other medical societies many scientific meetings. For example, Hong Kong Respiratory Nursing College (HKRNC) and Hong Kong Society for Paediatric Immunology Allergy and Infectious Diseases (HKSPIAID).



The First Joint Symposium of the HKSPIAID and HKIA entitled “Allergy Prevention Begins at Your Practice” held on 17 September 2015



HKIA and HKRNC have co-organized the 1st HKIA Nursing and Allied Health Symposium on 12 January 2016



The Second Joint Symposium of the HKSPIAID and HKIA entitled “What’s New in Allergy?” held on 16 March 2016

Social Events

Networking is important in the busy lives of healthcare professionals. HKIA council members are very active in joining social activities organized by other medical organizations.



Photos taken at the 50th Anniversary Dinner of the Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong on 15 March 2015



Gathering before the dinner with Dr. Wing-man Ko, our Patron, on 10 July 2015



Agreement Signing Ceremony on 17 March 2015

Engaging in more collaborations with partners in industry is another important milestone. Danone Nutricia has committed a three years educational grant to the Institute. This very generous donation will help the Institute develop a broad range of educational activities in allergy at a key time for potential growth of the specialty in Hong Kong.

Press Conference and Public Education

The Hong Kong Institute of Allergy has hosted many press conferences to arouse the public awareness of allergic diseases, and has published educational articles in newspapers to help the public understand more about common allergic disorders and how they are managed. The HKIA also partners the Environmental Protection Department to educate the public on the health risk of air quality and what they can do to protect the environment through a series of videos.



Press conference on “Air Pollution Restricts Growth and Development in Children’s Lungs” held on 5 October 2014. Ms. Christine Loh, Under Secretary for the Environment, Environment Protection Department of HKSAR Government and a patient were invited to share their views



A series of 12 educational articles were published bi-weekly on Hong Kong Economic Journal from May to November 2016



To help improve understanding on the health risk of air quality and the actions you can take to improve air quality, the Environmental Protection Department produced a video series entitled “Clean Air and You”, which has incorporated inputs from council members of HKIA. The series comprises six episodes. One episode would be released every Friday starting from 27 May 2016

World Allergy Congress 2015

The Institute sponsors members from time to time to attend local and international scientific meetings; offers scholarships annually for training, study or research programmes overseas; and hosts many medical symposia and clinical meetings to update members on recent scientific advances in allergy.

Dr. Gilbert Chua, member of HKIA, was awarded a sponsorship to attend the World Allergy Congress 2015 on 14 – 17 October 2015, one of the major international conferences on allergy. Having the opportunity to learn about recent advances in allergy and meeting experts from all over the world were definitely eye-opening.

According to Dr. Chua, representing Hong Kong Institute of Allergy to run the booth at the conference was “full of surprises”. It was a very fruitful experience to talk to people from different countries, know their cultures and get in touch to emigrated Hong Kong physicians. Inviting them to our Hong Kong Allergy Convention (HKAC) also gave him additional responsibility to promote not only the event, but also to introduce Hong Kong as an international and vibrant city, as if he was a tourist ambassador. He was extremely delighted when experts and doctors from different countries showed their enthusiasm to attend HKAC and sign up to be a member HKIA.





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**Congratulations to
Hong Kong Institute of Allergy**

*20th
anniversary*

**As a partner to advance allergy
prevention and management, we will
continue to work together to improve
health of Hong Kong's next generation**



Warmest Congratulations

20th Anniversary of

Hong Kong Institute of Allergy



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