

President's Report at AGM 2024 Professor Gary Wong

The COVID-19 pandemic is over and people around the world are allowed the return of all normal activities. However, the lifting of all pandemic measures has resulted in dramatic return of many viral infections resulting in a marked increase in hospital admissions especially wheezing illness in children. Other respiratory problems such as mycoplasma infection also resulted in many hospitalizations in the past year. Such surges are likely due to immunity debt because of the lack of stimulation during the pandemic period. We will need to observe whether there may be long-term effects related to such immunity debt.

Annual Scientific Meeting 2024

The HKIA Annual Scientific Meeting 2024, held on 6 October, was a physical event that attracted hundreds of participants, and this year it was “uneventful” as far as the weather was concerned. We did not have any typhoon visiting us this year. The topics included asthma, food allergy, drug allergy, novel vaccines, atopic dermatitis, and anaphylaxis. We must thank the support of our members of the organizing team for their efforts in putting together such an informative programme. The feedback has been very favorable. I would like to thank the members of the organizing team in putting together such as wonderful event.

HKIA Research Grants

The programme of HKIA Research Grant has been restarted, aiming to provide early seeding funding for young researchers in the field of allergy. In the history of this grant, we are very happy to see high quality work and the related publications in high impact journals in the allergy field. We expect the recipients to present their findings in our meetings, and they will be invited to speak in our symposia. Most importantly, the recipients should provide satisfactory completion report at the end of the project. We aim to support young researcher in the field to help kickstart their research.

Other Educational Activities

With the hard work of Dr. Alson Chan and Dr. Philip Li, HKIA continued to work with FMSHK and the Multispecialty Medical Mega Conference. As allergic disorders are very common. These events provide great opportunities for specialists in the field in allergy to disseminate important up-to-date knowledge to equip frontline physicians to deal with a variety of allergic disorder. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Chan and Dr. Li for steering these important activities.

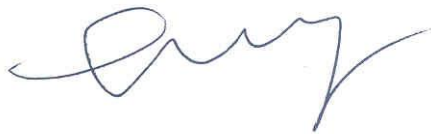
HKIA Newsletter

Dr. Marco Ho is the current chief editor leading this important effort in providing important news and information for members. His team is supported by our capable associate editors including Dr. Jason Chan, Dr. Allie Lee and Dr. Agnes Leung. I appreciate the hard work of Dr. Marco Ho and his team on this endeavor. We look forward to reading more exciting information and articles in the coming issues of our newsletters.

Vision for the Coming Year

The success of our Institute is the result of all the hard work of all Office Bearers, Dr. Helen Chan, Dr. Philip Li, Dr. Roland Leung, and our council members and advisors. There are many planned activities in the coming year including Hong Kong Allergy Convention 2025 along with other collaborative CME activities. The council has approved to support the EAACI Summery Allergy School to be held in Hong Kong. We are now exploring the best way to make this event successful. Look out for information that will be available in the near future.

My term as President will be over by the end of 2024. I am sure the incoming president together with the Council will continue to serve the important role in supporting education and research for the benefits of patients suffering from allergies.



Professor Gary Wong
President
The Hong Kong Institute of Allergy