

## President's Report at AGM 2025

Dr. Philip Li

President, The Hong Kong Institute of Allergy

It is an honour to have served as President of The Hong Kong Institute of Allergy over the past year. To lead this distinguished institute is to stand on the shoulders of those who came before. Past presidents and council members established HKIA as a pillar of allergy care in Hong Kong and laid the foundation for its continued growth and international recognition. Their legacy lives on in the programmes they built and in the culture of excellence, collaboration, and service they instilled in our community. I am deeply grateful for their guidance and for the trust placed in me to carry this mission forward.

Under their stewardship, HKIA has evolved from a local society into a respected voice in regional and global allergy circles. As we look ahead, our ambition grows with our reach. While we remain firmly committed to advancing allergy care within Hong Kong, we now strive to extend from local to global: hoping to expand our partnerships and influence across China, the Asia Pacific region, and beyond. We aim to build bridges of knowledge, practice, and partnership that transcend borders.

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### EAACI Hong Kong Allergy School: East Meets West

(27 – 29 August 2025)

The inaugural EAACI Hong Kong Allergy School, held earlier this year, stands as the clearest demonstration yet of HKIA's ambition to lead global allergy education beyond Hong Kong. Aptly themed "East Meets West", the event embodied the shared commitment of HKIA and the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology to unite diverse perspectives in allergy science and education.

As EAACI's first flagship educational programme held outside Europe, the School marked a historic moment for Hong Kong and for global allergy collaboration. Over 340 participants from 34 countries attended. They engaged with world leading faculty on critical topics including urticaria and angioedema, allergic airway diseases, and drug allergy. The three day programme was not only our most attended educational event to date but also a resounding success in fostering meaningful dialogue between Eastern and Western approaches. This has led to new initiatives, such as the upcoming Global Consensus on Low Risk Penicillin Allergy and multiple publications covering the Hong Kong Allergy School in the EAACI flagship journal *Allergy*.

In recognition of this momentum, HKIA formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding with EAACI leadership, pledging an enduring partnership. As a key outcome, we are proud to announce that starting next year, the Hong Kong Symposium will become a permanent feature at the annual EAACI Congress. This will serve as a lasting platform for Asian voices in global allergy discourse.

## **13<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Allergy Convention: Allergy Beyond Borders**

**(18 – 19 October 2025)**

We also upheld our longstanding tradition with the 13th Hong Kong Allergy Convention, held this year under the theme “Allergy Beyond Borders”. This biennial gathering remains our flagship local event, uniting clinicians, researchers, nurses, pharmacists, and allied health professionals across specialties to advance integrated, patient centred care.

We were deeply honoured to have Mr Eric Chan Kwok Ki, Chief Secretary for Administration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, officiate the opening ceremony. His welcome speech aptly summarized the growing allergy pandemic and reflects the growing recognition of allergy as a public health priority.

The scientific programme highlighted Hong Kong’s expanding role in shaping regional standards. We welcomed distinguished international faculty including Dr Joseph Forester from the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and Professor Hideaki Morita from the World Allergy Organization. They shared updates on venom immunotherapy and food allergy management inspired the entire auditorium at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

A particularly memorable highlight was the Tak Lee Memorial Lecture, delivered by Professor Gary Wong and chaired by Dr Christopher Lai and Ms May Lee, representing the Lee family. This tribute reminded us of the enduring legacy we inherit and the responsibility we carry to honour it through continued innovation and compassion.

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## **HKIA Grants and Scholarships: Empowering the Next Generation**

Our commitment to nurturing future leaders remains central. The HKIA Research Grant programme continues to provide essential seed funding to early career investigators, supporting innovative research with tangible clinical relevance. We are pleased to see recipients publishing in high impact journals and presenting their work at our symposia and national meetings.

Building on recommendations from the Council, we have refined our scholarship criteria to further support trainees and younger colleagues in participating actively in international conferences. Greater resources are now allocated to enable not just attendance but also oral presentations, poster sessions, and leadership roles at global events. Our goal is to ensure that the next generation of Hong Kong allergists is not only well trained but also visibly engaged on the world stage, strengthening our global connections and elevating our collective voice.

### **Refreshed Subcommittees: Renewed Energy, Shared Purpose**

I extend my sincere appreciation to all past and current subcommittee chairs and members for their unwavering dedication. Their work across education, research, guidelines, public outreach, and advocacy has been the engine of our progress.

This year, we welcomed many new and active members into our subcommittees, bringing fresh energy, diverse expertise, and renewed enthusiasm. We hope to see even greater recruitment of engaged HKIA members in the year ahead, and to continue deepening the spirit of multidisciplinary partnership that defines our Institute. Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive, and more dynamic organisation.

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### **Biannual eNewsletter: Updating Our Knowledge**

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 for the continued excellent content. New featured contents are added from time to time. We look forward to reading more exciting articles in the coming issues.

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### **Vision for the Coming Year: Towards Our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

As we approach the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HKIA, we stand at a pivotal moment. The past three decades have seen remarkable growth. From a smaller group of dedicated Allergists, Chest Physicians, Paediatricians and Dermatologists to a nationally and internationally respected institute, our journey reflects the power of collaboration and commitment.

The next chapter must be one of bold vision and inclusive action. We will continue to strengthen alliances with institutions across China and the Asia Pacific, deepen our collaboration with global bodies such as EAACI and WAO, and expand public engagement to raise awareness and reduce stigma around allergic diseases.

Our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year will be marked by a series of special initiatives: international symposia, public health campaigns, and collaborative projects with our sister international institutes that showcase Hong Kong's achievements and its unique role as a bridge between East and West.

Above all, we remain unwavering in our mission. To advance allergy care through science, education, and multidisciplinary partnership. For the benefit of patients in Hong Kong and beyond.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you this past year. I look forward to continue working with the Council and all members as we build the next chapter of HKIA's legacy.