

## **President's Medal 2025**

### **Dr. Christopher Lai**

It is with the utmost respect and conviction that Dr. Christopher Lai is awarded the President's Medal 2025, the Institute's most prestigious honour. Dr. Lai is not merely a candidate for this award, he is a foundational pillar upon which the modern recognition of allergology in Hong Kong has been built. His lifelong dedication to the field, marked by pioneering research, visionary leadership, and unwavering advocacy, perfectly embodies the ideals this medal represents.

As one of the Institute's founding members and a past President, Dr. Lai's contributions are intrinsically linked to its very establishment and credibility. His early foresight in recognizing allergy as a critical subspecialty provided the impetus for creating a dedicated platform for education and professional exchange in Hong Kong. His subsequent leadership ensured the Institute's growth into a respected body, cementing its role in advancing local standards of care.

Beyond his institutional legacy, Dr. Lai's scholarly impact is of international significance. His prolific output of over 150 peer-reviewed papers laid a crucial scientific foundation for the discipline locally. His pivotal role in the landmark ISSAC study positioned Hong Kong at the forefront of global epidemiological research, fundamentally altering our understanding of allergic disease prevalence and raising awareness on a worldwide scale. This work continues to inform public health strategies and clinical practices.

Furthermore, Dr. Lai has been a formidable ambassador for Hong Kong allergology, forging vital international links through his fellowship with the American Academy and executive role in the Asia Pacific Association. Even after transitioning to private practice, his commitment to the field remains undiminished, maintaining his academic connection as an Honorary Clinical Professor.

In summary, Dr. Christopher Lai is a true visionary. His unique combination of foundational leadership, groundbreaking research, and enduring passion has indelibly shaped the landscape of allergy care in Hong Kong. Bestowing the President's Medal upon Dr. Lai is not just an recognition of his past achievements, but a powerful affirmation of his enduring legacy as a guiding light for our profession.