

HKIA Research Excellence in Allergic Diseases Award 2018

Professor Gary WONG

Professor Gary Wing-Kin Wong received his undergraduate medical education, residency and fellowship training in Alberta and British Columbia, Canada. He joined Department of Paediatrics, the Chinese University of Hong Kong as a lecturer in 1990. Gary spent his post-doctoral fellowship at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and a research fellowship at the Hospital for Sick Children in London focusing on research questions and methodologies pertinent to asthma epidemiology. Soon after joining CUHK, Gary worked closely with Dr. Christopher Lai in launching the first Phase of International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC) for Hong Kong. The ISAAC has become the largest worldwide collaborative project ever undertaken, involving more than 100 countries and nearly 2 million children, which has generated many pivotal findings to improve our contemporary understanding of asthma and allergy disease burden, environmental risk factors and pathogenesis. Over the past two decades, Gary has led an outstanding research team and put Hong Kong's research for early origins and control of asthma and allergies on the World map. He is a prolific scholar with many original and review articles published in the top-notch journals including BMJ, Lancet Respiratory Medicine, JACI and Thorax. In recent years, Gary also developed a strong research interest in food allergy which is widely believed the looming second wave of allergy epidemic. Collaborating with Japan's team, Gary successfully completed a landmark clinical trial for the early prevention of egg allergy and published in the Lancet. Being a role model of clinician-researcher, Gary aspired a number of junior paediatricians and postgraduate students to specialise on clinical and laboratory allergies. Gary served as a Director in the Board of Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) from 2009 to 2014. He is also the president of Asia-Pacific Academy of Pediatric Allergy Respiriology and Clinical Immunology since 2013. He has contributed outstandingly to many journals' editorial works including being the first scholar outside U.S.A. ever invited to be one of the associate editors of the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine. Through his extensive collaborations with China, Asia and overseas institutions, Gary strives to identifying effective primary preventive strategies for the benefit of global community. This is the pleasure of Hong Kong Institute of Allergy to bestow Gary- the Research Excellence Award 2018.