

President's report at AGM 2022

Professor Gary Wong

Finally we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Hong Kong is following the footsteps of many other countries and regions with gradual lifting of various pandemic restrictions. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have been unprecedented. On the positive side, the high vaccination rates along with availability of various effective antiviral medications are minimizing the impact of COVID-19 on our healthcare system. As we are slowly coming out of the pandemic, Hong Kong lost one of the giants in the field of asthma and allergy. The sudden passing of Dr. LEE Tak-hong, Past President (2014-2017) of our Institute, was a major shock to all of us. Since joining the Council of HKIA upon his return from the UK, he initiated many new developments within the Institute and transformed our Institute into an academy supporting clinical excellency, encouraging allergy research, and optimizing medical education in our field. He will be greatly missed but always remembered. We will continue to strive for further improvement of our work with the Tak's attitude of bravely facing unpredictable challenges.

Annual scientific meeting 2022

Unlike the format of the Convention last year, the HKIA annual scientific meeting 2022 was a physical event, with the theme of "Allergy in Post-Pandemic Era". It was held in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on 25 September. With the hard work of the organizing committee, the programme was exciting for both clinicians and researchers. It was an international event with speakers from countries around the world including Australia, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, Singapore, and the United States. Of course, many of our local stars were also in the speaker's list. The topics of discussion included Asthma, Biologics for Allergic Diseases, COVID Vaccination, Eczema, Food and Nasal Allergies. The workshops on Spirometry, Skin tests, and Eczema management have also been highly popular and oversubscribed. I would like to thank all the speakers, facilitators of workshops, chairpersons, and members of the organising committee for their contribution in the success of this meeting.

HKIA Research Grants

Since the initiation of the scheme of HKIA Research Grant, we have attracted many applications from young and established researchers in the field. The recipients have presented their research results in our meetings and conventions. They have also been invited as speakers in our meetings highlighting their research findings. I would like to thank the excellent work of the Grant Application Committee members, Dr. Christopher Lai, Dr. Alice Ho, and Dr. Alson Chan in assessing the applications. After a short pause of the scheme last year, we have revised some of the regulations related to the application. We aim to provide support especially for the young researchers to obtain important preliminary findings such that they will have higher chance of success in securing bigger grants from other sources, for example, the Research Grant Council of Hong Kong.

Other Educational Activities

HKIA has co-hosted several important CME activities. Dr. Alson Chan continued to work with FMSHK to provide the highly successful Allergy Certificate Course this year. Dr. Philip Li, on behalf of HKIA, prepared a very exciting allergy programme for the Multispecialty Medical Mega Conference which was held on 3-4 September. I would like to thank Dr. Chan and Dr. Li in leading these efforts.

HKIA Newsletter

Dr. Marco Ho has taken over from Dr. Jamie S.D. Rosa Duque as the chief editor in Jan 2022. We would like to thank Jamie for his dedicated work over the years in producing high quality educational material to share with our members. I am sure Dr. Ho will continue the tradition and work alongside with our Associate Editors, Dr. Jason Chan, Dr. Agnes Leung, and Dr. Temy Mok, to ensure the highest quality of our Newsletter. Dr. Ho and his team will look for the most relevant and important material for future issues of the Newsletter and we welcome suggestions and contributions from you to share with our readers.

Vision for the coming year

I would like to thank our Office Bearers Dr. Helen Chan, Prof. TF Leung, Dr. Roland Leung, our immediate past president Dr. Marco Ho, and all our council members and advisors for their hard work and suggestions. We will be holding the Hong Kong Allergy Convention in 2023 and it will be a 2-day physical event. I promise you that it will be another exciting event and members of our organizing committee would love to hear your suggestions with regards to the scientific programme of this event. Three members, Professor TF Leung, Dr. Jaime Sou Da Rosa Duque and Dr. Johnny Chan, have served the Council for 4 years and will be rotating off the Council. I would like to thank them for their contribution and service.

The pandemic will soon be history and I look forward to another year filled with exciting scientific events and enjoyable social events as we are preparing to get back to our normal way of living again.



Professor Gary Wong
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The Hong Kong Institute of Allergy