

# HKIA Awards

## President's Medal

### Dr. Tak-Hong LEE

Dr. Tak-hong Lee retired from his Professorial post at King's College London and as Director of the Medical Research Council - Asthma UK Centre in 2011. He was invited by HK Sanatorium and Hospital (HKSH) to start a new Allergy Centre in 2012.

Since 2012 he has devoted himself to HK allergy and unified a distinguished team of colleagues to transform the professional credibility and public perception of the specialty. He proposed that a seminal piece of work should be written for the first time to define the unmet need for allergists in HK. The article published in 2015 and its subsequent update provided the formal justification for more allergy training posts to be allocated, culminating in the first specialist in adult allergy in 20 years to complete his allergy exit examination successfully in 2019. He has taught groups of HKU final year medical students about allergy for the last 9 year and actively mentors allergy trainees and colleagues about career development.

He has led by example and created at HKSH a multi-disciplinary model for allergy service delivery. He expanded the use of allergen specific sublingual immunotherapy and established the first food oral immunotherapy program under anti-IgE cover in HK.

He was elected HKIA President 2014-2017. He and colleagues rewrote the constitution and transformed HKIA into an academic society with a professional secretariat; offered a new scheme to support pump-priming grants for research and travel scholarships; created an active subcommittee structure; and launched an informative newsletter, webpage and twitter social platforms. He actively engaged colleagues from the universities, HA and the private sector in a cohesive partnership for the benefits of HK's community. To support all the new activities, Lee attracted substantial sums of uncommitted funding to HKIA. He emphasized the need for rigorous governance and has written detailed formal operational procedures for HKIA to avoid conflicts of interest.

Lee is a highly cited author publishing more than 450 papers (Google Scholar h index 91). On behalf of HKIA he and colleagues have published several position papers and clinical guidelines that are highly cited.

Finally, Lee fosters a sense of collaboration and community. He collaborates seamlessly with colleagues from HKU, CUHK and the HA. He is an advisor and has promoted greater formal links with HK Allergy Association to encourage public engagement and outreach.

Lee is recipient of many distinguished lectureships and awards in allergy and asthma that reflect his international academic achievements and stature. In 2012 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II appointed him a CBE for his allergy and asthma research.

Lee's sustained contributions to leadership of the allergy community in HK and his transformative influence in the spheres of education, research, clinical service and outreach deserve the highest recognition of the President's Medal.