

In Memoriam of Dr. Tak LEE



Dear HKIA Members and Associate Members,

We are deeply saddened to share with you the passing of Dr. LEE Tak-hong, Past President (2014-17) of our Institute and a world-renowned leader in the fields of asthma and allergy, on the morning of 26 August 2022.

Dr. Lee will always be remembered for his unparalleled commitment to the development of Allergy in Hong Kong and his leadership and his long-lasting impactful services to the Institute. Most of us fondly called him Tak.

Tak retired from his Professorial post at King's College London and as Director of the Medical Research Council - Asthma UK Centre in 2011. He returned to Hong Kong and commissioned a new Allergy Centre at HK Sanatorium and Hospital (HKSH) in 2012. Since then, 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 convened the Hong Kong Allergy Alliance and documented the unmet need for allergists in HK in a published authoritative document. He is an exemplary role model and has inspired and mentored many allergy trainees and colleagues about career development. During his tenure of HKIA Presidency 2014-2017, he led the council, 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; promulgated HKIA practice guidelines, 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. Tak attracted substantial sums of uncommitted funding to HKIA. He emphasized the need for rigorous governance and had written detailed formal operational procedures for HKIA to avoid conflicts of interest. Tak fostered a sense of collaboration and community. He was an advisor and had promoted greater formal links between the Institute and patient support and charity - HK Allergy Association - to encourage public engagement and outreach. Tak's sustained dedication and contributions to leadership of the allergy community in HK and his transformative influence in the spheres of education, research, clinical service and outreach deserved the highest recognition of the President's Medal of the Institute in 2021.

Tak's visionary leadership, passion and dedication to the development of the Institute and Hong Kong Allergy as a whole will always be cherished. His legacy will live on for generations to come. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marco Ho'.

Dr. Marco HO
Immediate Past-President
Hong Kong Institute of Allergy

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gary Wong'.

Prof. Gary WONG
President
Hong Kong Institute of Allergy