



養和醫療
HKSH MEDICAL GROUP

For Immediate Release

Naming Ceremony of Lee Tak Hong Allergy Centre In Honour of the Contributions of the Late Professor LEE Tak Hong to HKSH's Allergy Care

(2 April 2023, Hong Kong) HKSH Medical Group (HKSH) today held the naming dedication ceremony for the **HKSH Lee Tak Hong Allergy Centre**. The name is a mark of appreciation for the contribution of the late Professor LEE Tak Hong, a world-renowned authority in allergy and respiratory medicine, and his role in establishing the Allergy Centre at Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital in 2012. He also offered allergy care and allergy-related education to HKSH patients when he took the helm of the Centre as its inaugural Director between 2012 and 2022. The naming ceremony affirmed HKSH's commitment to continuing Professor LEE's legacy by advancing allergy care locally and globally in three distinct areas: service provision, education and research.

The naming ceremony was presided over Dr TSAO Yen Chow, Chief Clinical Officer of HKSH Medical Group and Deputy Medical Superintendent of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital; Mr. Adrian LEE, son of Professor LEE Tak Hong; Dr Joseph CHAN, Chief Medical Officer of HKSH Medical Group and Deputy Medical Superintendent of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital, and Dr Marco HO, Founder and Chairman of Hong Kong Allergy Association – charity and patient advocates.

In his address at the ceremony, **Dr. TSAO Yen Chow** thanked Professor LEE for his dedicated efforts in advancing medical care and research into allergies and asthma at HKSH, 'Professor LEE Tak Hong tirelessly pursued medical studies on the treatment of allergies. His illustrious career spanned five decades and three continents and became one of the most influential advocates for the treatment and study of allergies in Hong Kong.'

'HKSH is profoundly grateful for Professor LEE's contribution and leadership in our Allergy Centre over the last decade. During this period, he introduced de-sensitisation and immunotherapy treatment at HKSH (the first-of-its-kind in Hong Kong), as well as the use of new biologics for severe refractory urticaria, eczema, asthma and nasal polyposis, just to name a few. By naming the Allergy Centre in honour of Professor LEE, HKSH would like to pay tribute to him as a way to commemorate his legacy and carry on his spirit of medical excellence,' added **Dr TSAO**.

'Professor LEE spared no effort to train and mentor young doctors through regular educational courses and meetings in the two local universities and the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy. He also pioneered studies in medicine and drugs for asthma and allergies and shaped specialty training in immunology and allergies in Hong Kong, where he built a team at HKSH Allergy Centre and guided them in the research of these scientific projects in asthma and allergies. Through his efforts, HKSH Allergy Centre established close partnerships with The University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Hospital Authority and the private sector in medical research,' said **Dr. Joseph CHAN**.

'Professor LEE is a giant in the field of allergy and immunotherapy, not only in Hong Kong, but in the world. As the former President of the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy, he transformed the institution into

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an academic society, promulgated practice guidelines, and fostered partnerships between the Institute and patient support groups for the benefit of the community. We will continue his work and missions with the same passion and commitment,' said **Dr. Marco HO**.

Mr. Adrian LEE, son of Professor LEE Tak Hong, received the 10-year service medal on his father's behalf. He commented, 'My father spent much of his life in service of others, selflessly dedicating himself to his patients and to furthering advancement in medicine. He found great purpose working at the Allergy Centre and great joy working with colleagues to normalise paths to treatment and improve the overall understanding of asthma and allergy. I would like to thank the HKSH Medical Group and the Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital for honouring my father and recognising his outstanding legacy.'

Professor LEE Tak Hong (1951-2022) amassed over 40 years of experience in clinical practice, training and research. He graduated with first class honours from Cambridge University in England, where he practised and taught. He was the first Director of the UK National Medical Research Council Centre and of the Asthma UK Centre for Allergic Mechanisms of Asthma at King's College London and Imperial College, as well as Director of the Asthma Allergy Centre of the British Asthma Association, Clinical Professor at King's College London, President of the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Head of the Asthma and Allergy Department at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospitals in London, and President of the Joint Committee on Immunology and Allergy of the Royal College of Physicians and Royal College of Pathologists. Professor LEE was appointed a CBE by Queen Elizabeth II in 2012 in honour of his contribution to research on asthma and allergies.

Professor LEE published over 450 papers on asthma and allergies. His studies focused on the mechanisms of severe asthma and the reasons why severe asthma patients do not respond well to standard asthma treatments, as well as examining new preventive and therapeutic approaches to addressing important issues in asthma and allergy research for the benefit of patients.

Professor LEE was also a strong advocate of evidence-based service provision, driven by rigorous research. During the decade under his guidance, his HKSH team published numerous studies and papers in collaboration with local and global experts in allergies. These papers formed the basis for the launch of various services, including the revolutionary combined oral immunotherapy treatment for peanut desensitisation in 2013, a patient-centric Food Allergy Caution Programme for in-patient services to ensure safe food provision for allergy patients (also launched in 2013), Hong Kong's first food allergy prevention programme for high-risk infants in 2018, an authoritative clinical framework for the use of biologics in allergic diseases in 2020, and pre-vaccination allergy screening to identify and address the needs of the general population in connection with COVID-19 vaccination in early 2021.

Professor LEE served as the President of the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy between 2014 and 2017. He was also the convener of the Hong Kong Allergy Alliance in 2015, where he collaborated with key experts in the field to jointly publish an article in the Hong Kong Medical Journal that identified an unmet need for allergists in Hong Kong. Afterwards, Professor LEE played a significant role in shaping the Hong Kong College of Physicians' Higher Training curriculum for Immunology & Allergy, and as the chief examiner for the exit examinations.

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In 2021, Professor LEE's sustained leadership in the allergy community in Hong Kong and his transformative contributions in the spheres of education, research, clinical service and outreach were recognised with the highest honour available: the President's Medal of the Hong Kong Institute of Allergy.

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About HKSH Medical Group

Officially launched in September 2017, HKSH Medical Group promotes public health and advanced medicine through a multi-faceted, coordinated approach across clinical services, medical education, scientific research and public health education. Members of the Group, including Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital, HKSH Healthcare and HKSH Eastern Medical Centre, are dedicated to offering top-quality holistic care to patients, upholding the motto "Quality in Service, Excellence in Care."

About Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital

Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital is one of the leading private hospitals in Hong Kong. Living up to its motto of "Quality in Service Excellence in Care," the Hospital is committed to serving the public as well as promoting medical education and research.

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Photo Caption

1. The naming ceremony was presided over Dr TSAO Yen Chow, Chief Clinical Officer of HKSH Medical Group and Deputy Medical Superintendent of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital (second from left); Mr. Adrian LEE, son of Professor LEE Tak Hong (second from right); Dr Joseph CHAN, Chief Medical Officer of HKSH Medical Group and Deputy Medical Superintendent of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital (first from left); and Dr Marco HO, Founder and Chairman of Hong Kong Allergy Association – charity and patient advocates (first from right).



2. Dr. TSAO Yen Chow thanked Professor LEE for his dedicated efforts in advancing medical care and research into allergies and asthma at HKSH. By naming the Allergy Centre in honour of Professor LEE, HKSH would like to pay tribute to him as a way to commemorate his legacy and carry on his spirit of medical excellence.



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3. Dr. Joseph CHAN, Chief Medical Officer of HKSH Medical Group and Deputy Medical Superintendent of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital, said, Professor LEE spared no effort to train and mentor young doctors. He pioneered studies in medicine and drugs for asthma and allergies and shaped specialty training in immunology and allergies in Hong Kong, where he guided the HKSH allergy team.



4. Dr. Marco HO, Founder and Chairman of Hong Kong Allergy Association, commended that Professor LEE is a giant in the field of allergy and immunotherapy, not only in Hong Kong, but in the world. They will continue his work and missions with the same passion and commitment.



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5. Mr. Adrian LEE, son of Professor LEE Tak Hong (right), received the 10-year service medal on his father's behalf.



6. Professor LEE Tak Hong is a world-renowned authority in allergy and respiratory medicine, and his role in establishing the Allergy Centre at Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital in 2012. He also offered allergy care and allergy-related education to HKSH patients when he took the helm of the Centre as its inaugural Director between 2012 and 2022.



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