

Lichfield Science & Engineering Society



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THE ALLERGY EPIDEMIC

Professor M Thirumala Krishna University of Birmingham and University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

8:00 pm on Tuesday 2nd December 2025
In the Main House of the Lichfield Garrick

Professor Thirumala Krishna (TK) is Chair of Allergy, Clinical Immunology and Global Health at University of Birmingham, Honorary Consultant at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and Head of Postgraduate School of Pathology for WM NHSE Education. His research has focussed on the burden of allergies amongst British people, ethnicity-based disparities, anaphylaxis, drug allergies including safe and practical strategies to tackle inaccurate penicillin allergy labels in the NHS and asthma and allergies in low income settings in the Indian subcontinent.

TK was awarded the prestigious Jack Pepys lectureship in 2021 by the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology in recognition for his contribution to the science of Allergy and Clinical Immunology at an international level. He has published in high impact wide-ranging peer reviewed international journals, contributed to prestigious textbooks in Asthma and Allergy and co-authored five British national guidelines in Allergic conditions.

High Income Countries including UK have a huge burden of allergic conditions such as hay fever, asthma, eczema and food allergy. Allergic conditions occur as a consequence of a complex interplay between genetic, environmental and human behavioural factors and research in the last 2-3 decades has greatly improved our understanding of the mechanisms leading to allergic conditions and paved the way to novel diagnostic tests and treatments. This lecture will provide an overview of allergies and allergic conditions; how common they are, ethnicity-based disparities, the importance of self-management through education, and touch upon novel therapies.