

## Chronic cough in China

Professor Ke-fang LAI

Institute of Respiratory Disease, The Guangzhou Medical College, China



Professor Ke-fang LAI

Chronic cough (defined as cough lasting for at least 8 weeks) is a common symptom, accounting for 20-30% of patients seen in adult respiratory clinics. According to one survey in China, 3.4 % of male and 3.2% of female college students had chronic cough. 80.8% of the patients were diagnosed as "chronic bronchitis" or "chronic pharyngitis" previously, most of which were believed to be misdiagnosis, the mean duration of cough was  $58.07 \pm 83.74$  m, the average times of medical service the patient sought was  $20.80 \pm 30.00$ . The four most common causes of chronic cough were eosinophilic bronchitis (22%), post nasal drip syndrome (17%), cough-variant asthma (14%), and gastroesophageal reflux (12%). The <Guideline for Diagnosis and Management of Cough > was drafted in China in 2005, sputum induction, spirometry and airway provocation test were recommended as the first-line examinations.