

# New York Metropolitan Chapter History

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### Foundation in 1977

The NY Metropolitan (NY Metro) Chapter was founded in 1977, five years after the KSEA was founded. Fifty-two scientists and engineers attended the inaugural meeting at SamBogJeong Korean restaurant in Manhattan on March 5, 1977. The first chapter president (CP) was late Dr. Chong- Whan Kim who worked at Schering at that time. The Council consisted of 10 councilors at the beginning and later expanded to have 22. NY Metro produced four KSEA HQ presidents who are Drs. Chin Ok Lee (president in 1989-1990), Sung-Kwon Kang (2006-2007), Kang-Wook Lee (2008-2009), and Myung Jong Lee (2013-2014).

Table 1. NY Metro Chapter Presidents

대	회기	지부장	대	회기	지부장
1	1976-77	김종환	22	1996-97	김승필
2	1977-78	임종진	23	1997-98	유종우
3	1978-79	문인덕	24	1998-99	최종덕
4	1979-80	정명기	25	1999-00	김성인
5	1980-81	이진욱	26	2000-01	박현
6	1981-82	강성권	27	2001-02	김영록
7	1982-83	김제철	28	2002-03	최강일
8	1983-84	안호삼	29	2003-04	김성훈
9	1984-	이종원	30	2004-05	최성훈
10	1985-	이창래	31	2005-06	심정섭
11	1985-86	강순목	32	2006-07	차성혁
12	1986-87	이동준	33	2007-08	김성원
13	1987-88	안훈	34	2008-09	신승혁
14	1988-89	송대석	35	2009-10	박일
15	1989-90	박상근	36	2010-11	장석주
16	1990-91	유태삼	37	2011-12	신준호
17	1991-92	한병준	38	2012-13	고봉준
18	1992-93	정연태	39	2013-14	Grace 박
19	1993-94	이명중	40	2014-15	Stephen Suh
20	1994-95	이강욱	41	2015-16	박세웅
21	1995-96	이기원	42	2016-17	이연수

### First Student in NY: Esther Pak in 1895

Esther Kim Pak had lived in Liberty, NY and NY City from Jan 1895 to Oct 1896 when she entered

the Baltimore Women's Medical College. She studied at Liberty Public School from Feb 1895 for a semester. For the next one year she studied high school courses through private lessons while working at NYC Nursery and Child's Hospital to make ends meet. Her maiden name was Chyom Tong Kim (김점동) who graduated from Ewha Hakdang (이화학당) in early 1890's. And she received a MD degree in 1900. She was the first woman medical doctor in Korea.

### Social Activities

The major activities in early years involved social activities such as dinner parties, tennis tournaments, and golf outings. Annual dinner or award parties were held usually in Jan or Feb. It was often called "구정의 밤" since we celebrated the Lunar New Year. The annual awards had discontinued since early 2000's.



Figure 1. Scene of 1995 Annual Award Party (앞줄 왼쪽부터 유태삼, 안훈, 이강욱, 강성권 수상자, 김종환 초대회장, 손영규, 이명중, 유동우. 뒷줄 왼쪽부터 민정기, 한병준)

Golf outing has been a popular social activity and it is often organized on the same day as General Assembly or as part of a farewell party when a dedicated member moves to Korea or a different city. Tennis tournaments also used to be held on the same day as General Assembly in which CP, vice CPs, councilors and auditors are elected. SIT was the most favorite venue as Dr. Sunghoon Kim had organized the event many times from his student days.



Figure 2. Scene of a 2012 farewell golf outing when Dr. Sunghoon Kim moved to Korea (왼쪽부터 김성원, 최판경, 김성훈, 양종식, 이강욱, 심정섭)

### Annual Fall Picnic (1981- present)

Fall picnic with undergraduate and graduate students started in 1981 under the leadership of the 6th CP, Dr. Sung-Kwon Kang. In the first few years, the students at the Stevens Institute of Technology played a major role in its sports activities. The participating schools for the last several years include Columbia, NYU Polytech, NJIT, CUNY, and Queens College.



Figure 3. A scene of 1994 fall picnic.

### Northeast Regional Conference (1988-present; the 22nd NRC was held in 2013)

In the early years the major activities involved social meetings and picnics with the families and the graduate students from Korea. Then it started organizing invited talks and symposiums. From the end of the 1980s NY Metro organized its own symposiums while the neighboring chapters of NJ, Lehigh Valley and Philadelphia held their first regional conference in 1988. Starting in 1992, the four chapters had organized the conference which was named "the 3rd Northeast Regional

Conference, the abbreviation of which was made "NRC" from 1995 when it was expanded to 2 days. NRC1995 had 91 papers. Since 2005, the three organizations NY Metro, NJ, and KASBP (Korean American Society in Biotech and Pharmaceuticals) co-hosted it. The 22nd NRC was held in June 2013.



Figure 4. A keynote presentation in NRC2010

Young-generation special programs had been organized as part of the NRC a few times in late 1990's and a few times recently. It is noteworthy that the 1997 YG program was sponsored by the Korea-US Science Cooperation Center (KUSCO). NRC YG Program in 1997 was the very first event among KUSCO's funding for YG activities.

### Math and Science Olympiad (1994-present)

KSEA NY Metro Math and Science Olympiad (KMSO) became the most important and meaningful chapter activity. It is meaningful since it is a unique volunteer service to the Korean-American community.

It was an extremely tough project to the chapter specially at the beginning since we needed to develop a good overall program, to raise an enough fund, to recruit dedicated members and to advertise it to the Korean community. The idea was conceived in early 1994 mainly by three members: immediate ex-CP Yeon-Tae Jung, CP Myung Jong Lee and elected-CP Kang-Wook Lee. Its preparation began on July 1, 1994 under the leadership of the new CP, Kang-Wook Lee. The first KMSO had the following program and committees.

- (1) Date: November 19, 1994
- (2) Venue: Bronx High School of Science
- (3) Purpose in program: To inform the young generation Korean-American students of the importance of math and science to their education

and careers, to provide their parents with the information about children's education, and to demonstrate the modern sciences and technologies. (4) Program: (a) math test, (b) science exhibitions, and (c) lectures for parents.

It turned out a huge success. The total attendance was over 1,000. The NY Korea Times selected KMSO as one of the top 10 Korean-American community events.



Figure 5. A newspaper article of NY Korea Times in Nov 1994



Figure 6. Drs. Kang-Wook Lee and Myung Jong Lee just before the first KMSO Award Ceremony

The science part started with science/technology exhibits and then changed to science competition that involves test, project, and poster. KMSO was organized by NY Metro from 1994 to 2002, co-organized by NY Metro and NJ from 2003 to 2006, and then organized only by NY Metro from 2007. KMSO was the first math AND science competition event in the history of KSEA. It is noted that KSEA HQ started Math Competition from 2002 and Math/Science Competitions (NMSC)

from 2007 and that NJ has held NMSC in April as part of KSEA HQ since 2008.



Figure 7. A scene of the science contest in 2002

The detailed dates, venues, eligible student grades, and chairs can be seen in following table.

Table 2. NY Metro Math and Science Olympiad

#	Date	Venue	Eligibility grades	Chair
1	1994.11.19	Bronx Hi. School of Science	5-10	Kang-Wook Lee
2	1995.11.18	"	4-10	Ki Won Lee
3	1996.11.16	"	"	Seung Pil Kim
4	1997.11.22	"	"	Dongwoo Yu
5	1998.11.28	"	"	Jong-Deok Choi
6	1999.11.27	"	"	Seong In Kim
7	2000.11.25	"	"	Hyun Park
8	2001.11.24	"	"	Young Lok Kim
9	2002.11.16	Lehman College	"	Kang-Il Choe
10	2003.11.22	"	4-11	Sunghoon Kim
11	2004.11.20	"	"	Sunghoon Choi
12	2005.11.19	"	"	Jeong Seop Shim
13	2006.11.11	Manhattan College	"	Sung Hyuk Cha
14	2007.11.17	Queens College	"	Seongwon Kim
15	2008.11.22	"	"	SeungHyuk Shin
16	2009.11.21	"	math/sci 4-11; post 10-12	Il Park
17	2010.11.20	"	"	Seogjoo jang
18	2011.11.19	"	"	Jun Ho Shin
19	2012.11.17	"	"	Bongjun Ko
20	2013.11.23	"	"	Grace Park
21	2014.11.22	"	"	Stephen Suh



22	2015.11.21	“	“	Sae Woong Park
23	2016.11.19	“	“	Eonsoo Lee

Table 3. KMSO Parents Program Speakers

#	Date	Parents Program Speakers
1	1994.11.19	이상희, 백경숙, 안세영
2	1995.11.18	이상희, 백경숙
3	1996.11.16	전신애, 강경식, 학생연사 4 명
4	1997.11.22	전혜성, 강영우, 학생연사 3 명
5	1998.11.28	현용수, 학생연사 3 명
6	1999.11.27	함인영, 학생연사 1 명
7	2000.11.25	정영숙
8	2001.11.24	강성모
9	2002.11.16	신의항
10	2003.11.22	박순탁, 김승운
11	2004.11.20	서진규
12	2005.11.19	전신애
13	2006.11.11	정미령, 박중련
14	2007.11.17	강성권
15	2008.11.22	박길재, 학생연사 1 명
16	2009.11.21	김준기, 김은희
17	2010.11.20	김준기, 이석, 서문원
18	2011.11.19	최희선, 석성남
19	2012.11.17	권현주, 한상준
20	2013.11.23	조석희
21	2014.11.22	이강욱, 김준기, panelists
22	2015.11.21	panelists

As shown in Table 3, the invited parents' program speakers were outstanding and well known. Some of them were KSEA officers and ex-presidents. Most of the parents' programs were organized by Dr. Sung-Kwon Kang, the 6<sup>th</sup> CP. The topics included children's life, education, and career as well as Korean history, culture and pride.



Figure 8. A scene of a parent program at the first KMSO in 1994 (연사는 이상희 대한민국 국가과학자문회의 당시 위원장)

As the program further developed, poster presentations are included. Mostly 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students have presented posters, and bioscience was the most popular topics.



Figure 9. A scene of a poster competition at KMSO2010. A student presenting her work to Dr. Moon Won Suh, the 23<sup>rd</sup> KSEA President, who was a parents program speaker.

### Summary

NY Metro has held the annual Math and Science Olympiad (KMSO) every year since its inauguration in 1994. The dedicated efforts of officers, ex-officers, and ex-CPs made such sustained volunteer activities possible for 22 straight years. KMSO has been recognized as one of the best volunteer activities for the Great NY Korean Community. Other key activities such as Northeast Regional Conferences and fall picnics are also well sustained. A harmonious relationship and friendship among members, specially ex-CPs, could be a key factor to the success of the sustained chapter activities.