

The Education and Accreditation Committee and Registration of Medical Practitioners

- 5.1 The Education and Accreditation Committee is established under the Council to perform the following functions:-
- (a) to determine, upon the recommendation of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM), the specialties under which names of registered medical practitioners may be included in the Specialist Register;
 - (b) to recommend to the Council, on the recommendation of the HKAM, the qualification, experience and any other attributes that qualify a registered medical practitioner to have his name included in the Specialist Register under a particular specialty determined by the Committee under paragraph (a);
 - (c) to recommend to the Council the procedures, documentations and fees payable for including the name of a registered medical practitioner in the Specialist Register;
 - (d) to recommend and review the standard and structure of undergraduate medical education and medical training required for a person to become a registered medical practitioner; and
 - (e) to recommend to the Council whether the name of a registered medical practitioner should be included in or removed from the Specialist Register.
- 5.2 The membership of the Committee (as at 31 December 2003) was as follows:-
- Professor TANG Wai-king, Grace, JP (Chairman)
Dr CHOI Kin, Gabriel
Dr CHU Kin-wah
Professor CHUNG Sheung-chee, Sydney
Professor COCKRAM, Clive Stewart
Professor Tony Gin
Dr HUNG Chi-tim
Dr KO Tak-him, Patrick
Professor LAM Siu-ling, Karen (who replaced Professor LIANG Hin-suen, Raymond with effect from 12 February 2003)
Professor Felice LIEH-MAK, CBE, JP
Dr SHIH Tai-cho, Louis
Dr SO Pik-han, Kathleen
Dr LAM Tzit-yuen, David
(who replaced Dr YUEN Ka-wai with effect from 22 January 2003)
Professor LUK Dip-Kei
(who replaced Professor YUEN Kwok-yung with effect from 12 February 2003)

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- 5.3 The voluntary “CME programme for practising doctors who are not taking CME programme for specialists” (the Programme) was implemented with effect from 1 October 2001. Under the Programme, participating doctors who have accumulated 30 or more CME points in a year within the 3-year CME cycle and whose names are not included in the Specialist Register will be awarded a CME Certificate to certify that they have achieved a satisfactory level of CME activity during that particular period. The CME certificate can be displayed inside the doctor's office. Since the implementation of the Programme, the Medical Council has, on the recommendation of the Education and Accreditation Committee, approved to issue such CME Certificates to some 1,300 participating doctors.
- 5.4 In accordance with section 20I(d) of the Medical Registration Ordinance, the EAC conducted the first review on the standard and structure of medical education and medical training of the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1998. Five years have elapsed since the last review. On the recommendation of the Education and Accreditation Committee, the Medical Council decided to form a Visiting Team for visiting the medical faculties of the two universities in March 2003 with a view to reviewing the standard and structure of medical education and training provided by the two universities. The composition of the Visiting Team was as follows:-
- Professor Rosie YOUNG, GBS, CBE, JP, Past Chairman of the Medical Council (Chairperson)
 - Professor John HAMILTON, Academic Director (Phase I Medicine), Department of Medicine, University of Durham, United Kingdom (Overseas Expert)
 - Professor Richard LARKINS, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne, Australia (Overseas Expert)
 - Dr William HO, JP, Chief Executive of the Hospital Authority
 - Dr HUNG Chi Tim, representative of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine
 - Miss Nora YAU, MH, JP, Lay Member of the Medical Council of Hong Kong and Member of the 1998 Review

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- 5.5 The Visiting Team conducted two one-day visits to the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong on 10 and 11 March 2003 respectively and issued the report on the standard of medical education of the two universities on 14 March 2003 to the Education and Accreditation Committee and the Council for consideration.
- 5.6 The Medical Council was delighted to note that the Visiting Team had confirmed in the Report that the medical education and training provided by the medical faculties of the two universities had met the required standard. The Medical Council also considered that the recommendations made by the Visiting Team for further improvements were helpful and justified. The medical faculties of the two universities had been informed of the results and recommendations of the review visit on their medical education and training made by the Visiting Team and the Medical Council's concern on the future development of the two medical faculties.
- 5.7 The Education and Accreditation Committee is also given the responsibility to scrutinize qualifications, upon application, to see whether they are acceptable to the Medical Council for use on signboards, letterheads and visiting cards, etc. In 2003, the Committee considered 14 qualifications. Of these 14 qualifications, 11 were regarded by the Committee as having met the prevailing vetting criteria and were included in the List of Quotable Qualifications with the endorsement of the Medical Council.
- 5.8 As at 31 December 2003, there were over 11,000 medical practitioners with full registration with the Medical Council of Hong Kong. This figure included those resident in Hong Kong and those on the overseas list. **Table 9** shows that there has been an increase in the number of registered medical practitioners from 9,818 in 1999 to 11,016 in 2003 (12%). In addition to the medical practitioners with full registration, there were 193 medical practitioners with limited registration among whom 88 were permitted to work in the exempted clinics.
- 5.9 Keeping the entries on the register up-to-date has been a major task. Hundreds of transactions are carried out weekly, including changes of registered address or personal particulars, removal from and restoration to the register, transfer to and from the local and overseas lists respectively, issue of Certificates of Good Standing and Certificates Verifying Registration, etc. In addition, as a public service, the Council Secretariat dealt with over 46,000 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public in 2003.

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- 5.10 **Table 10** lists in detail the registration figures in respect of various parts of the General Register, including "provisional" and "limited" registrations as well as cases of restoration to the Register from 1996 up to 2003. As the figures show, there was a drop in the number of applications for registration in Part I of the General Register since 1997 due to the amendment of the Medical Registration Ordinance in respect of the qualification for registration. Overseas medical graduates, except those recognised under the transitional arrangement, are required to sit for the Licensing Examination.
- 5.11 A medical practitioner whose name had been removed from the General Register, whether as a consequence of disciplinary proceedings or otherwise, is entitled to apply to the Medical Council to have his name restored to the Register. The Council may hold an inquiry to decide whether to grant the application or refuse it. **Table 10** shows that in 2003, there were 21 such applications and all were approved except three.
- 5.12 In addition, every year the Council Secretariat has to conduct a large-scale exercise of renewal of practising and retention certificates for all registered medical practitioners. With the increase in the number of registered medical practitioners over the years, the issue of annual practising and retention certificate has also risen in actual numbers from 9,400 in 1999 to 10,580 in 2003, an increase of 13%.
- 5.13 The "Specialist Register" was established in 1998 to provide for registration of medical practitioners qualified in various specialties. **Table 11** shows there were 3,255 doctors registered under 51 specialties as at 31 December 2003 and the number of registered medical practitioners under each specialty.