

# Introduction **1**

**1.1** The Medical Council is empowered under the Medical Registration Ordinance, Cap. 161, Laws of Hong Kong, to handle registration and disciplinary regulation of medical practitioners in Hong Kong. To assist in carrying out these functions, the Council Secretariat, which is staffed by the Department of Health, provides executive and secretarial support to the Council. Apart from conducting policy and committee meetings, the Council had processed, with the support of the Secretariat, for the year 2005:-

- (a) 94 applications to sit the qualifying examination of medical practitioners;
- (b) 981 applications for registration (including 327 applications for full registration, 207 applications for limited registration, 322 applications for provisional registration, 125 applications for temporary registration);
- (c) 289 applications for specialist registration;
- (d) 11,200 renewals of annual practising/retention certificates;
- (e) 397 disciplinary complaints; and
- (f) 47,300 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public.

**1.2** 2005 was a very busy year for the Council. This is evident from the statistics in this report, in particular, the significant increase in the number of disciplinary complaints. To ensure compliance with professional ethics and facilitate experience sharing, guidelines on specific topics relating to medical practice/management were issued for the reference of medical practitioners through the Council's Newsletters.