



1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Medical Council of Hong Kong (the 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 2009:-
 - (a) 246 applications to take various parts of the Licensing Examination, the passing of which shows the achievement of a standard acceptable for registration as a medical practitioner;
 - (b) 837 applications for registration (including 293 applications for full registration, 170 applications for limited registration, 280 applications for provisional registration, and 94 applications for temporary registration);
 - (c) 303 applications for specialist registration;
 - (d) 12,055 renewals of annual practising/retention certificates;
 - (e) 493 disciplinary complaints; and
 - (f) 47,700 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public.

- 1.2 2009 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.

- 1.3 In 2009, the Council continued to defend itself in a number of judicial review (JR)/appeal cases. Although the Council is challenged in a number of JR/appeal cases, the Council is committed to protecting the public, maintaining professionalism and ensuring justice in discharging its statutory functions.