



# *Message from the Chairman*

Dr TSANG Yick-sang, Jeffrey, MBE  
Chairman, Dental Council of Hong Kong

The Dental Council has undergone another fruitful year in the discharge of its statutory duties of registration and regulation of the dental profession.

As part of our incessant efforts to bring about a better regulatory framework for the dental profession, the Council has constantly reviewed the provisions in the Dentists Registration Ordinance to identify areas for further improvements. It is encouraging to note that having regard to the views expressed to the Administration by the Council and the dental profession, the Administration would be giving priority to the setting up of a statute-based Specialist Register in the legislative amendment exercise in 2005. In the meantime, the Council is also undertaking a major review on the registration-related provisions in the Dentists Registration Ordinance with a view to streamlining and enhancing the system of registration of dentists.

Regarding the Code of Professional Discipline, the Council has introduced several amendments to the Code pertaining to the use of specialist titles and media appearance by the dental profession.

As a means to improve the complaint-handling mechanism amidst rising public aspiration, the Council has published a form for making complaints, as well as an information pamphlet, for use by members of the public. This would achieve the dual purposes of facilitating the investigation of complaints and the provision of necessary

information by complainants in a clear and comprehensive manner.

Since the implementation of the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA I) on 1 January 2004, we are pleased to note that under CEPA II which came into effect on 1 January 2005, there are further liberalization measures for our dentists to provide their services in the Mainland. Under CEPA II, the Mainland's Qualification Examination will be open to Hong Kong permanent residents who are legally eligible to practise dentistry in Hong Kong, irrespective of the dental school they have attended. In this regard, the Dental Council Secretariat will continue to take up the administrative work of receiving applications to take the Qualification Examination from our registered dentists.

The work of the Council has been heavily dependent upon the assistance and support of Council Members, both lay and professional, and staff of the Council Secretariat. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Members for their unfailing contribution and commitment and the Secretariat staff for the quality service rendered to me and the Council.

The Council will continue the mission of maintaining a high ethical standard of the profession for the benefit of our patients and the community. The Council also looks forward to the valuable support and active involvement of members of the profession in the coming year with a view to achieving continued improvements to our professionalism and quality service.

# 1

## Introduction

1.1 This annual report, covering the period of twelve months up to 31 December 2004, is published by the Dental Council of Hong Kong. Through this report, the Dental Council aims to keep members of the profession as well as the public better informed of the functions and activities of the Council and its various committees and working groups during the year under review.

1.2 As this report is intended for general information only, certain functions of the Dental Council have accordingly been simplified and/or presented in the form of an information document. Readers who are interested in more specific details of the statutory functions of the Council and its subsidiary committees and working groups may refer to the provisions under the Dentists Registration Ordinance, Chapter 156 of the Laws of Hong Kong and the Dentists (Registration & Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations.

### **Enquiries relating to the functions and work of the Council can be addressed to:-**

#### **The Dental Council Secretariat**

4/F, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building  
99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong  
Tel. No. : (852) 2873 5862                      Fax No.: (852) 2554 0577

### **Enquiries relating to registration matter can be addressed to: -**

#### **Central Registration Office**

17/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong  
Tel. No. : (852) 2961 8655                      Fax No. : (852) 2891 7946

**24-hour enquiry hotline : (852) 2574 4333**

**The Dental Council's Web Site : <http://www.dchk.org.hk>**

# 2 *Functions of the Dental Council of Hong Kong*

2.1 The Dental Council is established under section 4 of the Dentists Registration Ordinance Chapter 156 of the Laws of Hong Kong to carry out the following statutory functions in accordance with the Ordinance and the Dentists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations :-

- (a) registration of dental practitioners in Hong Kong, including processing applications for registration, applications for permission to use specialist titles and applications for registration of additional qualifications, and issuing various kinds of certificates in relation to the practice of dentistry to registered dental practitioners;
- (b) conduct of licensing examinations; and
- (c) disciplinary regulation of dental practitioners in Hong Kong.

2.2 The Council and its various committees and working groups meet regularly to consider and decide policies to facilitate the proper conduct of these functions. The Council Secretariat provides executive and secretarial support to the Council. During the year, apart from holding routine policy and committee meetings, the Council processed, with the support of the Secretariat:-

- (a) 45 applications to sit for the licensing examination;
- (b) 56 applications for registration;
- (c) 1,724 applications for renewal of annual practising certificates for dentists whose names are on the register for dentists resident in Hong Kong;
- (d) 104 disciplinary complaints; and
- (e) over 10,000 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public.

# 3 Membership of the Council

3.1 Under section 4 of the Dentists Registration Ordinance, all twelve members of the Council are appointed by the Chief Executive. The Council is made up of 9 registered dentists, along with a lay member and 2 medical practitioners. Its composition is as follows:-

- (a) the Registrar (the consultant dental surgeon in charge of the Dental Service of the Department of Health);
- (b) a consultant dental surgeon of the Dental Service of the Department of Health;
- (c) a registered dentist, who is a full-time member of the teaching staff of the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong, nominated by the University of Hong Kong;
- (d) 2 medical practitioners;
- (e) 6 registered dentists qualified to be registered and appointed:
  - (i) from a panel of not less than 12 such registered dentists nominated by the Hong Kong Dental Association; or
  - (ii) in the event of the Hong Kong Dental Association failing to nominate at least 12 such registered dentists, at the discretion of the Chief Executive; and
- (f) 1 lay member.

3.2 The membership of the Council is as follows:-

Dr Tsang Yick-sang, Jeffrey, MBE (Chairman)

Dr Elizabeth Lim Kwan, JP (Registrar)  
*(up to 31.1.2004)*

Dr Chan Cho-yee, Joseph (Registrar)  
*(since 1.2.2004)*

Dr Lee Kwing-hong

Professor Anne Sinclair McMillan

Professor Leung Nai-kong, BBS, MBE, JP  
*(up to 30.9.2004)*

Professor Ip Sau-man, Mary *(since 1.10.2004)*

Dr Tse Tak-fu

Dr Chan Kin-keung, Eugene

Dr Esmonde Francis Corbet

Dr Lai Ying-wah, Patrick *(up to 30.9.2004)*

Dr Fok Ka-hang, Tony *(since 1.10.2004)*

Dr Leung Ting-on, David

Dr Wong Tin-chun

Ms Kong Yuen-hoong, Helen

The Council's Legal Adviser is Mr Chan Chor-chak, Charles, and its Secretary is Ms Wong Yuk-king, Daisy.

# 4

## *The Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Proceedings*

4.1 The Dental Council's jurisdiction over dentists' professional conduct is laid down in the Dentists Registration Ordinance and the Dentists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations.

4.2 Disciplinary proceedings may be instituted against a registered dentist who:

- (a) has been convicted in Hong Kong or elsewhere of an offence punishable with imprisonment;
- (b) has been guilty of unprofessional conduct;
- (c) has obtained registration by fraud or misrepresentation;
- (d) was not at the time of his registration entitled to be registered; or
- (e) is practising dentistry in premises or under conditions which are unsuitable for such practice.

4.3 If any applicant for registration:-

- (a) has been convicted in Hong Kong or elsewhere of any offence punishable with imprisonment;
- (b) has been guilty of unprofessional conduct; or
- (c) is the subject of an existing order made under section 17(1)(i) or (ii) of the Dentists Registration Ordinance 1940,

inquiry may then be instituted to determine whether the name of the applicant should be entered on the register. The Dental Council has a discretion after such inquiry to order that the name of the applicant be not entered on the register.

4.4 The Dental Council has published a Code of Professional Discipline for distribution to each registered dentist to provide general guidance to dentists as to what may commonly constitute unprofessional conduct. This document is not a complete code of professional ethics, nor can it specify all offences which may lead to disciplinary action. Ultimately it is the Council that decides in each case whether the conduct of an individual dental practitioner constitutes unprofessional conduct.



# 4

## The Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Proceedings

4.5 Complaints against registered dentists touching on matters of unprofessional conduct are normally either lodged with the Council by individuals or referred to the Council by the press, the police or other organizations such as the Consumer Council. In accordance with the statutory procedure, individual complaints may go through three stages:-

- (a) Initial consideration by the Chairman of the Council's Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) who must, unless it appears to him/her that the complaint is frivolous or groundless and should not proceed further, direct that the case be referred to the PIC for consideration;
- (b) Examination by the PIC of the complaint/information received as well as the explanation of the defendant dentist to determine whether or not there is a prima-facie case for a formal inquiry;
- (c) Inquiry by the Dental Council, which sits in a panel of at least 4 Council Members, to hear the evidence of the complaint and representations from the defendant dentist.

4.6 The PIC is made up of three members. Its composition is as follows:-

- (a) 1 member of the Council elected by the Council, who shall be the Chairman of the Committee;
- (b) 2 registered dentists qualified to be registered under section 8 of the Ordinance, ordinarily resident in Hong Kong, who are not members of the Council and who shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Council:-
  - (i) from a panel of not less than 12 such registered dentists nominated by the Hong Kong Dental Association; or
  - (ii) in the event of the Hong Kong Dental Association failing to nominate at least 12 such registered dentists, at the discretion of the Chairman.

4.7 The membership of the Committee is as follows:-

[Dr Wong Tin-chun \(Chairman\)](#)

[Dr Leung Shui-kwong, Peter](#)

[Dr Lai Sik-hung, Francis](#)

The Legal Adviser of the Committee is Mr Lam Ken-chung, Simon who provides legal advice in the deliberation of disciplinary cases.

# 4

## *The Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Proceedings*

4.8 This year, the Council processed a total of 104 disciplinary cases, representing an increase of 20.9% when compared with 2003's figure. The increase is chiefly due to the significant increase in the number of complaints received in relation to canvassing and disregard of professional responsibilities to patients. **Table 1** classifies the complaints by their different nature. Comparative figures for the years of 2003 and 2002 are also shown in the same table. Most of the complaints (70.2%) were related to the disregard of professional responsibilities to patients.

4.9 **Table 2** shows the number of complaints processed under the three-stage process. Out of the 104 cases received in 2004, 67 were dismissed by the Chairman. The PIC held 7 meetings and considered 21 cases in total (including some cases carried forward from previous years), out of which 7 cases (33.3%) were referred to the Council for inquiry.

4.10 **Table 3** gives a closer look into the PIC's work in 2004. Four of the 7 cases referred for inquiry were heard in 2004. It is expected that the remaining cases will be heard in 2005.

4.11 The majority of complaints did not reach the inquiry stage. They were dismissed either due to their frivolous nature or because they were related to such allegations which could not indeed have been regarded as unprofessional conduct. Others are cases which could not be pursued further due to a lack of or insufficient supporting evidence. However, it should be pointed out that some of the complaints in fact touched on civil claims of professional negligence or compensation which should, more appropriately, be dealt with through civil proceedings or the Small Claims Tribunal.

4.12 In an inquiry, the defendant dentist is normally legally represented. The Secretary to the Dental Council, who is normally represented by a Counsel of the Department of Justice, is responsible for presenting evidence to substantiate the disciplinary charges, including for example the calling of the complainant as a witness. Hence, it is normally not necessary for the complainant to engage his own lawyer to present the case at a disciplinary hearing.

# 4

## *The Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Proceedings*

4.13 To deal with any legal issues raised at the disciplinary inquiry, the Dental Council is assisted throughout the hearing by its own Legal Adviser. It should also be stressed that, in finding any dentist guilty, the Dental Council has to be satisfied with the evidence put before it; and the standard of proof it applies in each case has to be commensurate with the gravity of the offence charged.

4.14 In the event that the Dental Council is satisfied after an inquiry that a dentist has committed a disciplinary offence then any one of the following disciplinary sanctions may be meted out:-

- (i) removal of the dentist's name from the Register of Dentists;
- (ii) removal of the dentist's name from the Register of Dentists for such period as the Council may think fit;
- (iii) reprimand;
- (iv) any other order as the Council thinks fit, but no such order is to be of greater severity than those in (i) to (iii).

The Council has the power to suspend the operation of an order made under (i), (ii) or (iii) for a period or periods

not exceeding 2 years, in which case the order will not take effect unless during the suspension period the dentist is found guilty of another disciplinary offence or is in breach of a condition of the suspension order.

4.15 **Table 4** shows the number of inquiries conducted by the Council in 2004. A total of 7 inquiries were held in the year, including one on an application for restoration to the register of dentists. One hearing was adjourned and to be resumed in 2005. The Council found the dentists concerned guilty of unprofessional conduct in four of the 5 disciplinary cases (80%).

4.16 Any dentist/applicant who is aggrieved by the order of the Council is entitled to appeal to the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal may thereupon affirm, reverse or vary the order appealed against.

4.17 **Table 5** shows the actual number of appeals lodged against the Council's orders in 2002, 2003 and 2004 respectively. There was no appeal lodged in 2004.



# 5 The Licensing Examination of the Dental Council

5.1 The Dental Council has appointed the Examination Committee and the Board of Examiners to assist it in administering the Licensing Examination of the Council. The Examination Committee is the policy arm of the Council in recommending the policy, format and rules governing the Examination whilst the Board of Examiners is responsible for conducting the Licensing Examination.

5.2 The Examination Committee consists of:-

- (a) 2 members of the Dental Council (1 of them shall be the Chairman);
- (b) 2 registered dentists nominated by the University of Hong Kong;
- (c) 2 registered dentists nominated by the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong;
- (d) 2 registered dentists nominated by the Hong Kong Dental Association; and
- (e) 2 registered dentists being public officers and nominated by the Department of Health.

5.3 The membership of the Committee is as follows :-

Professor Anne Sinclair McMillan  
(Chairman) (Member of the Council)

Dr Wong Tin-chun (Member of the Council)

Professor Nigel Martyn King (HKU) *(since 19.2.2004)*

Professor Lakshman Perera Samaranyake (HKU)

Professor Erik Urban Oskar Hägg  
(CDSHK)

Dr Tse Siu-kwong, Anthony (CDSHK)

Dr Ho Chi-wai, David (HKDA)

Dr Wong Chi-wai (HKDA)

Dr Chan Cho-ye, Joseph (DH)

Dr Elizabeth Lim Kwan, JP (DH) *(up to 18.2.2004)*

Dr Yau Chuen-kam (DH) *(since 19.2.2004)*



# 5 *The Licensing Examination of the Dental Council*

5.4 The composition of the Board of Examiners is as follows :-

- (a) 5 registered dentists nominated by the University of Hong Kong;
- (b) 1 registered dentist nominated by the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong;
- (c) 1 registered dentist nominated by the Hong Kong Dental Association; and
- (d) 1 registered dentist being a public officer and nominated by the Department of Health.

5.5 The membership of the Board of Examiners is as follows :-

Professor Nigel Martyn King (Chairman)  
(HKU)

Dr Cheung Shun-pan, Gary (HKU)

Professor Cheung Lim-kwong (HKU)

Dr Esmonde Francis Corbet (HKU)

Dr John Edwin Dyson (HKU)

Dr Zee Kwan-yat (CDSHK)

Dr Fok Ka-hang, Tony (HKDA)

Dr Lee Kwing-hong (DH)

5.6 For the purpose of appointment to the Examination Committee and the Board of Examiners, the term "registered dentist" includes a person who is a full-time teaching staff of the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong.

5.7 The Licensing Examination is conducted by the Board of Examiners. The Examination is intended for those non-Hong Kong trained dentists who wish to register as dentists in Hong Kong. Upon passing the Examination, a person will be eligible to obtain full registration with the Dental Council. For the purpose of monitoring and maintaining the standard of the Examination at an international level, an overseas examiner is appointed, through the nomination of the Board of Examiners and the endorsement of the Examination Committee, to give comments on the multiple choice question papers and to examine some of the candidates in the practical and clinical parts of the Examination. The overseas examiner would also provide comments on the Examination for consideration of the Board of Examiners.

# 5 *The Licensing Examination of the Dental Council*

5.8 The Examination is held annually by the Board of Examiners. At present, it consists of three parts as follows:-

(a) Part I - Multiple-choice question papers, set in both Chinese and English, on professional subjects including Applied Basic Sciences; Medicine and Surgery in relation to Dentistry; Dental Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and Medical Emergencies in relation to dentistry; Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology; Children's Dentistry and Orthodontics; Conservative Dentistry; Periodontology, Preventive Dentistry and Dental Public Health; and Prosthetic Dentistry;

(b) Part II- Practical Test which is designed to test candidates' manual dexterity and professional competence in Children's Dentistry and Orthodontics; Prosthetic Dentistry; Conservative Dentistry; Periodontology and Dental Public Health, and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

(c) Part III- Clinical Test which is designed to test candidates' ability to apply their professional knowledge to clinical situations particularly in diagnosis, treatment planning and treatment in the restoration of teeth; diagnosis and treatment of periodontal conditions; prosthetic treatment provision; surgical management of patients; and the diagnosis, treatment planning, and management of infants, children and adolescents.

5.9 In 2004, the Board of Examiners held 3 meetings to consider the examination results. Details of the results of the examination, since its establishment in 1986, are shown at **Table 6**.



# 6 Registration and Restoration

6.1 As at 31 December 2004, 1,892 dentists were entered in the Register of Dentists of Hong Kong, either as being resident in Hong Kong or resident outside Hong Kong. **Table 7 (A)** shows that there has been a slight increase in the number of registered dentists from 1,848 in 2003 to 1,892 in 2004, because of new registration and restoration to the register.

6.2 Keeping these entries up-to-date while enabling public access to those names registered on the list is one of the major tasks for the Council Secretariat. Hundreds of transactions are carried out monthly, including change of address or personal particulars, deletion and restoration to the register, transfer to and from the local and overseas lists respectively, as well as issuance of Certificate of Good Standing, Duplicate Copy of Certificate of Registration, Certified Copy of Certificate of Registration (which is required when a dentist

opens a new premises for the practice of dentistry) and Certificates verifying registration, etc. In addition, as a public service, the Council Secretariat processed an annual average of over 10,000 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public.

6.3 **Table 7(B)** lists in details the registration figures as well as cases of restoration to the Register in 2002, 2003 and 2004 respectively.

6.4 In addition to the registered dentists with full registration, there were 7 deemed to be registered dentists in 2004. The deemed to be registered clause was introduced into the Dentists Registration Ordinance to enable all persons on full-time teaching employment of the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong to discharge their teaching duties or perform hospital work in the Faculty of Dentistry of the University.

6.5 A dentist who has advanced qualifications, training and experience in a branch of dentistry may apply to the Dental Council for the use of a Specialist Title. The objective of granting a Specialist Title is for the recognition of expertise so that patients may be referred to them for opinion and/or consultation if the need arises.



# 6 Registration and Restoration

6.6 As at 31 December 2004, the Council had granted approval for the use of the Specialist Titles in the following specialties: Orthodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Periodontology, Endodontics, Paediatric Dentistry, Prosthodontics and Family Dentistry.

6.7 Another major task for the Council Secretariat is the annual exercise of renewal of practising certificates for all registered dentists whose names are on the register for dentists resident in Hong Kong. The number of registered dentists resident in Hong Kong in 2004 was roughly the same as the number of registered dentists resident in Hong Kong in 2002. A total of 1,727 annual practising certificates for dentists resident in Hong Kong were issued in 2004, as compared with 1,723 annual practising certificates issued in 2002.

6.8 Every registered dentist whose name is on the register for dentists resident in Hong Kong is reminded at the end of the year that his practising certificate is due for renewal. Relevant provisions in section 11A and section 15(3) of the Dentists Registration Ordinance have been included in the application form for renewal of practising certificate to remind

dentists about the consequences of not renewing the practising certificate on time. A dentist should apply for a new practising certificate on time otherwise his name is liable to be removed from the register.

6.9 The Dental Council has reviewed the need of maintaining a "Dentists Resident Outside Hong Kong" list in the register. In the past, if a registered dentist on the "Dentists Resident In Hong Kong" list of the register decided to reside outside Hong Kong, he could apply to transfer his name to the "Dentists Resident Outside Hong Kong" list. The Council considered that while dentists could always leave Hong Kong for a period as they wish, their names should be removed from the register in accordance with section 15(3)(b) of the Dentists Registration Ordinance if they have no intent to practise in Hong Kong. There is already provision in the Ordinance for such a dentist to apply to restore his name to the register if he intends to practise dentistry in Hong Kong again. Dentists are therefore reminded that with effect from 1 March 2003, dentists would not be allowed to transfer to the "Dentists Resident Outside Hong Kong" list anymore.

# 7

## Credentials Committee

7.1 Apart from the Preliminary Investigation Committee, the Examination Committee and Board of Examiners which assist the Council to discharge its statutory functions, there are at present two other standing committees established under the Dental Council, namely the Credentials Committee and the Continuing Medical Education Accreditation Committee.

7.2 The primary function of the Credentials Committee is to uphold academic standards. It assesses applications for registration of additional qualifications and makes recommendations to the Council. It also performs the same function regarding applications for the use of Specialist Titles.

7.3 The membership of the Credentials Committee is as follows: -

Prof. Anne Sinclair McMillan (Chairman)

Dr Chan Kin-keung, Eugene

Dr Fok Ka-hang, Tony *(since 8.10.2004)*

Dr Lai Ying-wah, Patrick *(up to 30.9.2004)*

Dr Leung Ting-on, David

Dr Yan Sik-wing, JP (Co-opted Member)

7.4 In 2004, the Credentials Committee recommended and the Dental Council approved the use of a new specialist title "Specialist in Family Dentistry". The seven specialist titles recognized by the Council are as below: -

Specialist in Orthodontics

Specialist in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Specialist in Periodontology

Specialist in Endodontics

Specialist in Paediatric Dentistry

Specialist in Prosthodontics

Specialist in Family Dentistry



# 8 Continuing Medical Education Accreditation Committee (CAC)

8.1 The Continuing Medical Education (CME) Programme for Practising Dentists, which is on a voluntary basis and aims to maintain quality professional practice by encouraging dentists to keep themselves up-to-date about current development in knowledge and skills in various fields of professional practice, was implemented on 1 July 2002.

8.2 The CME Programme is based on a 'credit-point system' with credit points awarded for participation in CME activities recognized by the Dental Council. Under the existing arrangement, a minimum of 45 credit points have to be accumulated over a 3-year cycle and an average of 15 credit points per year should be aimed at.

8.3 A CME Accreditation Committee (CAC) has been set up to monitor and review the CME Programme. Its terms of reference are as follows:

- (a) to monitor the process of accreditation of CME activities;
- (b) to recommend CME Programme Providers and CME Programme Administrators for approval by the Dental Council;

- (c) to recommend award of the CME certificate for approval by the Dental Council; and

- (d) to conduct review of the CME Programme for practising dentists.

8.4 The CAC comprises the following representatives:

- (a) three representatives from the Dental Council;

- (b) a representative from the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong (CDSHK);

- (c) a representative from the Hong Kong Dental Association (HKDA); and

- (d) a representative from the Faculty of Dentistry, the University of Hong Kong (HKU).



# 8

## Continuing Medical Education Accreditation Committee (CAC)

8.5 The membership of the CAC is as follows:

Dr Lee Kwing-hong, Roch (Chairman)

Prof. Anne Sinclair McMillan

Dr Chan Kin-keung, Eugene

Prof. Erik Urban Oskar Hägg (HKU) *(since 30.1.2004)*

Dr Hui Kwok-kuen, Kenneth (CDSHK)

Dr Jin Li Jian (HKDA)

8.6 Upon the recommendations of the CAC, the following CME Programme Accreditors, CME Programme Administrators and CME Programme Providers have been appointed by the Dental Council:

### CME Programme Accreditors

The College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong

Hong Kong Dental Association

### CME Programme Administrators

The College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong

Hong Kong Dental Association

Department of Health (for dental officers of the Department of Health)

### CME Programme Providers

The College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong

Hong Kong Dental Association

Department of Health

Faculty of Dentistry, The University of Hong Kong

Hong Kong Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

Hong Kong Endodontic Society

Hong Kong Prosthetic Dentistry Society

Hong Kong Society of Hospital Dentistry

Hong Kong Society of Oral Implantology

Hong Kong Society of Orthodontists

Hong Kong Society of Paediatric Dentistry

Hong Kong Society of Periodontology

8.7 The CAC conducted regular review of the voluntary CME Programme at 6-month intervals since its implementation and considered that it had been carried out smoothly. As at 31 December 2004, 966 registered dentists had enrolled in the Programme and 563 of them attained more than 40 credit points by participating in various types of CME activities organized by the CME Programme Providers.



# 9 *Communication with the Profession and the Public*

- 9.1 In order to enhance communication between the Dental Council and members of the profession, the Council, apart from publishing an annual report, issued circular letters to all dental practitioners in Hong Kong from time to time. These circular letters highlighted some of the matters considered by the Council which were of interest to members of the profession.
- 9.2 The Council welcomes any views from members of the profession on various issues concerning the dental profession so as to update the dental profession on latest developments.
- 9.3 The Dental Council operates a homepage (**web site : <http://www.dchk.org.hk>**) to provide the following information:-
- (a) Memberships of the Dental Council and its subsidiary bodies;
  - (b) Text of the Dentists Registration Ordinance and its subsidiary legislations;
  - (c) Text of the Code of Professional Discipline;
  - (d) List of registered dentists;
  - (e) List of registered dentists who have been permitted by the Dental Council to use a Specialist Title;
  - (f) Information Pamphlet and Form in relation to Complaints against Registered Dentists;
  - (g) News about the date of an upcoming inquiry of the Dental Council;
  - (h) Continuing Medical Education Programme for Practising Dentists;
  - (i) Guideline for the Registration of Additional Qualifications;
  - (j) List of Registrable Additional Qualifications; and
  - (k) Annual Report of the Dental Council.
- 9.4 To enhance the dissemination of information to the public, the Council decided to allow dentists to provide their practice information through an electronic dentists directory developed by approved organizations. As at 2003, the Council has approved the Hong Kong Dental Association to develop an electronic dentists directory.

# 10 *Future Developments*

10.1 The Dental Council is dedicated to leading the dental profession in its role for greater professionalism so as to be in line with the community's changing needs and rising public awareness and demand. The Council must also keep abreast of the community's aspirations as well as the latest development in medical knowledge and technology in order to remain strong to meet new challenges.

10.2 To provide a comprehensive regulatory framework for the dental profession, revision is being made to the registration-related provisions in the Dental Registration Ordinance with a view to streamlining and improving the system of registration of dentists. The suggested amendments to the Ordinance will be forwarded to the Administration when finalized.

10.3 On the discipline side, the Council has been constantly looking into the scope for improving procedures and processes to enhance efficiency and transparency. Save for very special circumstances, the Council's disciplinary inquiries are normally held in public. This will remain the practice of the Dental Council. Information about the date of an upcoming inquiry of the Council is also posted at the website of the Council for information of members of the public and interested parties. In order to assist members of the public to provide detailed information

and describe relevant incidents and their allegations against the dentist concerned systematically, a form for making complaint, as well as an information leaflet about how to make a complaint, has been prepared and made available for complainants to use or make reference to.

10.4 The Council believes that in an ever-changing knowledge-based environment, dental practitioners do have a responsibility to keep themselves up-to-date on current development in knowledge and skills in various fields of professional practice in order to maintain quality professional service. The Council has been running a voluntary continuing education programme open for participation by all practising dentists to encourage them to maintain and further raise their professional competence. The programme, introduced in July 2002, will initially last for three years and is closely monitored by the Council.

10.5 The Council's Secretariat will also continue to review and improve both manual and computerised procedures in order to further enhance efficiency in the provision of services. In particular, arrangement has been made for information at the website of the Council to be updated bimonthly so as to provide more up-to-date information on the various issues pertaining to the practice of dentistry in Hong Kong.

TABLE

1

# Statistics on Disciplinary Cases Handled by the Dental Council

## Complaints Received by the Dental Council

Nature	No. of Cases		
	2002	2003	2004
1. Conviction punishable with imprisonment	-	2	1
2. Disregard of professional responsibilities to patients	57	61	73
3. Abuse of alcohol or drugs	-	-	-
4. Abuse of dangerous or scheduled drugs	-	-	-
4A. Mandatory labelling of all dispensed medicines	-	-	-
5. Abuse of professional position in order to further an improper association or commit adultery	1	-	1
6. Abuse of professional confidence	-	-	-
7. Advertising	25	10	4
8. Depreciation of other dental practitioners	-	1	2
9. Canvassing	2	5	13
10. Misleading and unapproved descriptions and announcements	5	5	2
11. Improper financial transactions	-	-	-
12. Untrue or misleading certificates and other professional documents	-	-	-
13. Covering	-	-	-
14. Improper delegation of dental duties	-	-	-
15. Responsibility of partners and directors	-	-	-
16. Miscellaneous	5	2	8
Total :	95	86	104

TABLE

# 2

## Work of the Council's Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) in 2004

Nature	Total no. of Cases
Cases received and considered/being considered by PIC Chairman	104
Cases dismissed by PIC Chairman	67
Cases considered by the PIC (including cases carried forward from previous years)	21
Cases referred by the PIC to Dental Council for disciplinary inquiry	7

TABLE  
3

*Work Statistics of the Council's Preliminary Investigation Committee in 2004*

	Quarter				Total
	Jan.-Mar.	Apr.-June	July-Sept.	Oct.-Dec.	
No. of PIC Meeting	2	1	2	2	7
No. of cases considered	7	4	5	5	21
No. of cases dismissed (%)	4 (57.1%)	-	4 (80%)	3 (60%)	11 (52.4%)
No. of cases referred to inquiry (%)	3 (42.9%)	2 (50%)	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	7 (33.3%)
Investigation in progress (%)	-	2 (50%)	-	1 (20%)	3 (14.3%)

TABLE

# 4

## *Inquiries Conducted by the Dental Council in 2004*

No. of Inquiries	Nature	Findings by Dental Council
4	Disciplinary Inquiry – Disregard of professional responsibilities to patient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Dentist's name removed from Register of Dentists for 2 months</li> <li>1 Dentist's name removed from Register of Dentists for 4 months</li> <li>1 Reprimanded</li> <li>1 Dismissed</li> </ul>
1	Disciplinary Inquiry – Canvassing	Hearing adjourned and to be resumed in 2005
1	Application for restoration	Application not allowed
1	Disciplinary Inquiry – Convicted of offence punishable with imprisonment	Reprimanded

TABLE  
5

# Figures on Appeal Cases

Figures on Appeal Cases			
	2002	2003	2004
No. of Appeals lodged	1	1	-
No. of Appeal cases carried forward from previous years	3	2	1
<b>Total No. of Appeal cases in progress in the year</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Result of appeal cases concluded in the year:</b>			
(a) Dismissed by Consent	1	2	-
(b) Dismissed by Court of Appeal	1	-	1
(c) Allowed	-	-	-
(d) Allowed with Substitute Order	-	-	-
<b>Total No. of Appeal cases concluded in the year</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

TABLE

6

# Results of the Dental Council's Licensing Examination since 1986

Cycle 1									
Year	Part I			Part II			Part III		
	No. Sat	No. Passed	Pass %	No. Sat	No. Passed	Pass %	No. Sat	No. Passed	Pass %
1986	140	24	17%	24	6	25%	6	3	50%
1987	92	24	26%	39	6	15%	9	5	56%
1988	-	-	-	29	5	17%	9	2	22%
1989	-	-	-	25	3	12%	9	3	33%
1990	-	-	-	7	0	0%	9	1	11%
1991	20	4	20%	14	3	21%	8	1	12.5%
1992	27	8	30%	16	7	44%	14	2	14%
1993	19	10	53%	17	3	18%	12	6	50%
1994	19	8	42%	18	5	28%	14	4	29%
1995	20	5	25%	22	6	27%	10	5	50%
1996	21	9	43%	23	5	22%	12	5	42%
1997	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2002	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Cycle 2									
Year	Part I			Part II			Part III		
	No. Sat	No. Passed	Pass %	No. Sat	No. Passed	Pass %	No. Sat	No. Passed	Pass %
1986	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1987	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1988	58	11	19%	30	5	17%	11	3	27%
1989	40	7	18%	20	4	20%	11	0	0%
1990	34	11	32%	16	3	19%	10	1	10%
1991	26	6	23%	11	3	27%	12	3	25%
1992	23	6	26%	13	4	31%	18	8	45%
1993	14	5	36%	18	8	44%	14	7	50%
1994	19	10	53%	19	6	32%	15	7	47%
1995	27	14	52%	25	6	24%	13	6	46%
1996	32	16	50%	29	5	17%	12	9	75%
1997	35	15	43%	37	17	46%	19	12	63%
1998	30	18	60%	28	14	50%	23	14	61%
1999	27	13	48%	26	10	38%	20	8	40%
2000	38	21	55%	30	11	37%	21	12	57%
2001	28	10	36%	21	11	52%	19	13	68%
2002	24	8	33%	13	5	38%	9	7	78%
2003	26	7	27%	12	5	42%	7	7	100%
2004	23	10	43%	16	6	38%	6	5	83%



# Number of Registered Dentists

(A) Total Number of dentists on the Register of Dentists of Hong Kong (as at 31 December 2004)

	2002	2003	2004
Dentists resident in Hong Kong	1,719	1,671	1,712
Dentists resident outside Hong Kong	188	177	180
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,907</b>	<b>1,848</b>	<b>1,892</b>

(B) Breakdown of new registration and restoration of names to the Register

	2002	2003	2004
New Registration	67	47	56
Restoration to the Register	8	11	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>68</b>

