



Message from the Chairman

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

The Dental Council had undergone another eventful year in 2005 in the discharge of its statutory responsibilities on the registration and regulation of the dental profession.

As part of our continuing efforts to bring about a better regulatory framework for the dental profession, the Council had regularly reviewed the various provisions of the Dentists Registration Ordinance, Cap. 156 to identify areas for further improvement. I am pleased to announce that with the views expressed by the Council and the dental profession, the Administration had introduced the Dentists Registration (Amendment) Bill 2005 to the Legislative Council in July 2005, aiming to amend the Dentists Registration Ordinance to establish -

- (i) a statute-based Specialist Register for registered dentists qualified in various specialist fields of dentistry; and
- (ii) an Education and Accreditation Committee under the Council to deal with matters relating to specialist registration and related matter.

A Bills Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Dr the Hon KWOK Ka-ki to study the various aspects of the Bill. The Amendment Ordinance was passed by the Legislative Council, and published in Gazette on 26 May 2006. The Amendment Ordinance shall come into operation on a day to be appointed by the Administration.

In the meantime, the Council will continue the review on the registration-related provisions in the Dentists Registration Ordinance and invite the Administration to consider other proposed amendments which include, among other things, the setting up of statutory committees, namely the Ethics Committee, the Health Committee, the Examination Committee and the Board of Examiners to focus on specific areas with a view to streamlining and improving the registration and regulatory systems of the profession.

As regards the Code of Professional Discipline

for registered dentists, the Council had introduced a few amendments to the Code pertaining to the citing of the title "CPD-certified" on stationery, and the quotation of the address of website set up by the practitioners for their dental practice in their entries in the directory on the Internet.

The number of complaints received in 2005 was 97 which represents a slight decrease as compared to the number of 104 complaints received in 2004. Notwithstanding the decreased number of complaints received against the members of the profession, the Council will stay adamant to work for improving and enhancing the sense of professional ethics and service standards of the profession.

We are pleased to note that under the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) II which came into effect on 1 January 2005, there have been further liberalization measures for dentists in Hong Kong 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 which they have attended. In this regard, the Council Secretariat will continue taking up the administrative work of receiving applications to take the Qualification Examination from our registered dentists.

The work of the Council has depended on the support and assistance of all the Council Members, both professional and lay, as well as staff of the Council Secretariat. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Members for their unflinching contribution and commitment in the past years, and for staff of the Secretariat for the dedication and quality service rendered to the Council.

The Council will continue the mission of maintaining a high ethical standard of the dental profession for the benefit of our patients and the community at large. I am certain that the Council can count on the 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.

1.1 This annual report, covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2005, is published by the Dental Council of Hong Kong. Through this report, the Council aims to keep members of the dental profession as well as the general public better informed of the functions and activities of the Council and its various committees and working groups during the year under report.

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

Enquiries relating to the functions and work of the Dental 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 matters 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
Dental Council's website : <http://www.dchk.org.hk>

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Functions of the Dental Council

2.1 The Dental Council is established under section 4 of the Dentists Registration Ordinance 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, as well as issuing various types of certificates relating 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 on policies to facilitate the proper conduct of their statutory functions. The Council Secretariat provides the executive and secretariat support to the Council at these meetings. During the year, aside from holding routine policy and committee meetings, the Council has processed, with the support of the Secretariat -

- (a) 56 applications to sit for the licensing examinations;
- (b) 56 applications for registration;
- (c) 33 applications for permission to use specialist titles;
- (d) 1,766 applications for renewal of annual practising certificates for dentists whose names are on the register for dentists resident in Hong Kong;
- (e) 97 complaints or information received against registered dentists; and
- (f) over 10,000 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public on registration- and regulation-related matters.

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Membership of the Dental Council

3.1 Under section 4 of the Dentists Registration Ordinance, all 12 members of the Dental Council are appointed by the Chief Executive. The Council is made up of 9 registered dentists, along with 2 medical practitioners and a lay member. The 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;
- (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 follow -

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

Dr Chan Cho-yee, Joseph, JP
(Registrar)

Dr Lee Kwing-hong, JP

Professor Anne Sinclair McMillan

Professor Ip Sau-man, Mary

Dr Tse Tak-fu (up to 31.5.2005)

Dr Fan Yun-sun, Susan (since 1.6.2005)

Dr Chan Kin-keung, Eugene

Dr Esmonde Francis Corbet

Dr Fok Ka-hang, Tony

Dr Leung Ting-on, David

Dr Wong Tin-chun (up to 30.9.2005)

Dr Tso Wei-kwok, Homer, BBS, JP
(since 1.10.2005)

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 (up to 23.10.2005) and Miss Leung Shun-chee, Evelyn (since 8.11.2005).

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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 an 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,

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

4.4 The Council has published a Code of Professional Discipline for distribution to each registered dentist to provide general guidance to dentists on the proper behaviour to be observed in the profession and what may commonly constitute unprofessional conduct. The Code is not a complete guidebook on professional ethics, nor can it specify all offences which may lead to disciplinary action. Ultimately it is for the Council to decide on the merits of each individual case whether the conduct of an individual dental practitioner under complaint or information received constitutes unprofessional conduct.

4.5 Complaints or information received against registered dentists touching on matters of unprofessional conduct are normally either lodged with the Council by individuals or been referred to the Council by the press, the police or such other organizations as the Consumer Council. In accordance with the statutory procedure, individual complaints may normally be handled under the following procedures -

- (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 or 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; and

- (c) inquiry by the 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 3 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 PIC is as follows -

Dr Wong Tin-chun (Chairman up to 30.9.2005)

Dr Tso Wei-kwok, Homer, BBS, JP (Chairman since 13.10.2005)

Dr Lai Sik-hung, Francis

Dr Leung Shui-kwong, Peter (up to 31.5.2005)

Dr Chiang, Stanley Li-biau (since 1.6.2005)

4.8 In 2005, the Council had processed a

total of 97 disciplinary cases, representing a slight decrease of 6.7% when compared with the 2004's figure. The decrease was attributable to the decrease in the number of complaints received in relation to the disregard of professional responsibilities to patients. **Table 1** shows the different nature of the complaints received. Comparative figures for the years 2003 and 2004 are also shown in the table. 59.8% of the complaints received were related to the disregard of professional responsibilities to patients.

4.9 The number of complaints processed in 2005 under the 3-stage process mentioned in paragraph 4.5 above is given in **Table 2**. Out of the 97 cases received, 65 were dismissed by the Chairman. The PIC had held 7 meetings in 2005 and considered 21 cases in total (including 3 cases carried forward from 2004), out of which 6 cases (i.e. 28.6%) were referred to the Council for inquiry.

4.10 **Table 3** gives a closer look into the PIC's work in 2005. 4 of the 6 cases referred for formal inquiry were heard in 2005. Hearings of the remaining cases would be scheduled in 2006.

4.11 The majority of complaints did not reach the inquiry stage but were dismissed either by the PIC Chairman or at the decision of the PIC. They were dismissed either due to their frivolous nature or because they were related to such allegations which could not be taken as unprofessional misconduct. Others were cases which could not be pursued further due to a lack of or insufficient supporting evidence. However, it should be pointed out that

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Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Proceedings

some of the complaints had touched on civil claims of professional negligence or compensation which should more appropriately be dealt with through civil proceedings.

4.12 At an inquiry, the defendant dentist is normally represented by his/her defence counsel. The Secretary of the Council, who is normally represented by a Government Counsel of the Department of Justice, is responsible for presenting evidence to substantiate the disciplinary charges, including the calling of witness and independent expert opinion. Hence, it is normally not necessary for the complainant to engage his own legal representative to present the case at the disciplinary hearing.

4.13 The Legal Adviser to the Council sits throughout the hearing to assist the Council to deal with any legal issues raised at the disciplinary hearing. It should be stressed that, in deciding on whether the defendant dentist is guilty of the charges laid against him/her, the 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 Council is satisfied after an inquiry that a dentist has committed an offence which amounts to unprofessional conduct, then any one of the following disciplinary sanctions may be considered -

- (a) removal of the dentist's name from the Register of Dentists;
- (b) removal of the dentist's name from the Register of Dentists for such

period as the Council may think fit;

- (c) reprimand; or
- (d) any other order as the Council thinks fit, but no such order is to be of greater severity than those in (a) to (c) above.

The Council has the power to suspend the operation of an order made under (a), (b) or (c) 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 2005. A total of 7 inquiries were held in the year, including 2 on complaints against applications for restoration to the Register of Dentists and another case on canvassing involving 8 dentists under complaint. The Council found the dentists concerned guilty of unprofessional conduct in 5 of the 7 disciplinary inquiries. In the canvassing case where 8 dentists were involved, 4 of them were found guilty of unprofessional conduct.

4.16 Any dentist who is aggrieved by the order of the Council is entitled to appeal to the Court of Appeal and the Court of Final Appeal. The Courts may thereupon affirm, reverse or vary the order appealed against. Table 5 shows the number of appeals lodged against the Council's orders in 2003 to 2005. One appeal was lodged in 2005.

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Licensing Examination of the Dental Council

5.1 The Dental Council has appointed the Examination Committee and the Board of Examiners to assist 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 whereas 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 in 2005 is as follows -

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

Dr Wong Tin-chun (Member of the Council until 30.9.2005)

Dr Tso Wei-kwok, Homer BBS, JP (Member of the Council since 13.10.2005)

Professor Lakshman Perera

Samaranayake (HKU)

Professor Nigel Martyn King (HKU)

Professor Erik Urban Oskar Hagg (CDSHK)

Dr Tse Siu-kwong, Anthony (CDSHK)

Dr Wong Chi-wai (HKDA)

Dr Ho Chi-wai (HKDA until 4.2.2005)

Dr Leung Sai-man, Sigmund (HKDA since 14.3.2005)

Dr Chan Cho-ye, Joseph, JP (DH)

Dr Yau Chuen-kam (DH)

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)

Professor Cheung Lim-kwong (HKU)

Dr Cheung Shun-pan, Gary (HKU)

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Licensing Examination of the Dental Council

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, JP (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 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. On passing the examination, the candidate 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 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.

5.8 The examination is held annually by the Board of Examiners. At present, it consists of 3 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; Paediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics; Conservative Dentistry; Periodontology, Preventive Dentistry and Dental Public Health; and Prosthodontics.

(b) Part II - Practical Test which is designed to test candidates' manual dexterity and professional competence in Paediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics; Prosthodontics; 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; prosthodontic treatment provision; surgical management of patients; and the diagnosis, treatment planning, and management of infants, children and adolescents.

5.9 In 2005, 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 2005, 1,941 dentists were entered in the Register of Dentists of Hong Kong, either as being residents in Hong Kong or residents 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, 1,892 in 2004 to 1,941 in 2005, mainly due to new registration to the register.
- 6.2** One of the major tasks for the Dental Council Secretariat is to keep these entries in the register accurate and up-to-date while enabling public access to those current names registered on the list. Hundreds of transactions are carried out on a monthly basis, including change and/or addition of practising address, addition of advanced qualifications, 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 detail the registration figures as well as cases of restoration to the register in 2003, 2004 and 2005 respectively.
- 6.4** In addition to the registered dentists with full registration, there were 7 “deemed-to-be registered” dentists in 2005. The “deemed-to-be registered” clause was introduced under section 30(3) of 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 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.
- 6.6** As at 31 December 2005, the Council had granted approval for the use of Specialist Titles in the following specialties - Orthodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Periodontology, Endodontics, Paediatric Dentistry, Prosthodontics and Family Dentistry.
- 6.7** Another key task for the Council Secretariat is the annual exercise of renewal of practising certificates for all registered dentists whose names are on the Register of Dentists resident in Hong Kong. A total of 1,766 annual practising certificates for dentists resident in Hong Kong were issued in 2005, as compared with 1,727 practising certificates issued in 2004.

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Registration and Restoration

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 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 who fails to apply for a new practising certificate on time may be liable for his name to be removed from the register.

6.9 A review had been conducted on 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 decided to reside outside Hong Kong, he could apply to transfer his name to the "Dentist Resident Outside Hong Kong" list. The Council considers that while a dentist can always leave Hong Kong for any period as he wishes, his name should be removed from the register in accordance with section 15 (3)(b) of the Ordinance if he has no intention to practise in Hong Kong during his leave. There are already provisions in the Ordinance for the dentist to apply to restore his name to the register if he intends to practise dentistry in Hong Kong again. Members of the profession have been reminded that effective on 1 March 2003, dentists would not be allowed to transfer their names to the "Dentists Resident Outside Hong Kong" list anymore.

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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 Professional Development 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 for the use of specialist titles, and makes recommendations to the Council.

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

Dr Leung Ting-on, David

Dr Yan Sik-wing (Co-opted Member)

7.4 As at 31 December 2005, a total of 138 dentists have been granted approval by the Dental Council to use specialist titles in their respective specialties :

Specialist title	No. of specialist dentists
Specialist in Orthodontics	48
Specialist in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	33
Specialist in Periodontology	7
Specialist in Endodontics	6
Specialist in Paediatric Dentistry	18
Specialist in Prosthodontics	16
Specialist in Family Dentistry	10

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Continuing Professional Development Accreditation Committee (CAC)

8.1 The 3-year voluntary Continuing Medical Education (CME) Programme for practising dentists commencing 1 July 2002 was completed on 30 June 2005. Following a review of the programme by the Dental Council, a new 2 1/2 years Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programme for practising dentists has commenced on 1 July 2005 and continues to be on a voluntary basis.

8.2 A total of 671 registered dentists who had attained at least 45 CME points as at 30 June 2005 have each been awarded a CME Certificate by the Dental Council. They are allowed to display the CME Certificate inside their practices and to include in their visiting cards and letterheads the title "CPD-certified (7/2005 - 12/2007)".

8.3 The new CPD Programme with a new set of guidelines continues to adopt a 'credit-point system' with credit points awarded for participation in CPD activities recognized by the Dental Council. A minimum of 45 credit points have to be accumulated over the 2 1/2 years cycle ending 31 December 2007.

8.4 As in the past, all registered dentists, including those deemed-to-be registered but excluding those on the overseas list, can enrol in the CPD Programme. Fellows of the HKAM who can fulfill the HKAM's CME/CPD requirements will be regarded as having met the CPD requirements of the Dental Council at the end of the 2 1/2 years cycle.

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

- (a) to monitor the process of accreditation of CPD activities;
- (b) to recommend CPD Programme Providers, CPD Programme Accreditors and CPD Programme Administrators for approval by the Dental Council;
- (c) to recommend award of the CPD certificate for approval by the Dental Council; and
- (d) to conduct review of the CPD Programme for practising dentists.

8.6 The CAC comprises of the following representatives -

- (a) three representatives from the Dental Council and one of them shall be the CAC Chairman ;
- (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).

8.7 The membership of the CAC is as follows -

Dr Lee Kwing-hong, JP (Chairman)

Prof. Anne Sinclair McMillan

Dr Chan Kin-keung, Eugene

Prof. Erik Urban Oskar Hagg (HKU)

Dr Hui Kwok-kuen, Kenneth (CDSHK)

Dr Jin Li Jian (HKDA) (up to 2.5.2005)

Dr Leung Fun-shing, Vincent (HKDA)
(since 1.7.2005)

8.8 Upon the recommendations of the CAC, the following CPD Programme Accreditors, CPD Programme Administrators and CPD Programme Providers have been appointed by the Dental Council -

CPD Programme Accreditors

The College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong

Hong Kong Dental Association

CPD Programme Administrators

The College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong

Hong Kong Dental Association

Department of Health

CPD 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

Hong Kong Society for Sedation and Anaesthesia in Dentistry

8.9 The CAC conducts regular reviews of the voluntary CPD Programme at 6-month intervals. As at 31 December 2005, 692 registered dentists had enrolled in the Programme and 496 of them attained 9 credit points or more by participating in various types of CPD activities organized by the CPD Programme Providers.

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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, will issue circular letters to all dental practitioners in Hong Kong from time to time. These circular letters in general will highlight matters considered by the Council which are taken to be of interest to members of the profession.

9.2 The Council welcomes any views from members of the profession on issues which the Council can undertake to further explore and review to keep the profession abreast of the latest development in knowledge and skills in dental services for the benefits of members of the public.

9.3 The Council hosts a website <http://www.dchk.org.hk> to provide the following information -

- (a) membership of the Council and its subsidiary committees and boards;
- (b) text of the Code of Professional Discipline for the Guidance of Dental Practitioners in Hong Kong;
- (c) list of registered dentists;
- (d) list of registered dentists who have been permitted by the Council to use a Specialist Title;
- (e) information pamphlet and form in relation to Complaints against Registered Dentists;

- (f) information on the date of an upcoming inquiry of the Council;
- (g) Continuing Professional Development Programme (CPD) for Practising Dentists;
- (h) list of dentists who have met the Continuing Medical Education requirements set by the Dental Council;
- (i) Guideline for the Registration of Additional Qualifications;
- (j) list of registrable additional qualifications; and
- (k) text of the Annual Report of the Dental Council.

9.4 To facilitate members of the public to have access to the practice information of dental practitioners, the Council has approved dentists to provide such information through an electronic dentists directory developed by approved organizations. Since 2003, the Council has approved the Hong Kong Dental Association to develop an electronic dentists directory.

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Future Developments

10.1 The Dental Council is committed to leading the dental profession in its role for greater professionalism. In meeting the community's changing needs and rising public awareness and demands, the Council must stay up-to-date of the community's aspiration as well as the latest development in technology and dental services.

10.2 The Council notes that amendment of the Dentists Registration Ordinance is in hand to establish a statute-based Specialist Register for registered dentists qualified in various specialist fields of dentistry, and an Education and Accreditation Committee to deal with matters relating to specialist registration and related matter. It is expected that the new statutory provisions will come into force later in 2006.

10.3 On other registration and related services, the Council has reviewed the relevant provisions in the Ordinance and invited the Administration to consider other proposed amendments with a view to streamlining and improving the registration and regulatory systems of the profession.

10.4 With regard the discipline side, the Council has regularly looked into the scope for improving procedures and processes to further enhance efficiency and transparency. In order to assist members of the public to provide detailed information and describe relevant incidents and their allegations against the subject dentist systematically, a form for making complaint, as well as an information leaflet on how to make a complaint has been prepared and made available for complainants to use or make reference to. The leaflet and complaint form have also been uploaded on the Council's website for public's access. Further, save for very exceptional circumstances, the Council's disciplinary inquiries are normally held in public. This will remain the practice of the Council. Information on the date and venue of an upcoming disciplinary inquiry is also posted on the Council's website for information of members of the public and interested parties.

10.5 The Council believes that in an ever-evolving knowledge-based environment, dental practitioners have the responsibility to keep themselves updated on current development in knowledge and skills in the various fields of professional practice in order to maintain quality professional service. To encourage practising dentists to maintain and further raise their professional competence, the Council has been running a voluntary continuing education programme open for their participation. The 3-year cycle programme was introduced in July 2002 and was completed in June 2005. The response to the programme has been very encouraging with 966 dentists enrolled in the programme and participated in the various activities offered. The new cycle of the programme has commenced in July 2005 and run until December 2007. The Council will keep the programme under close monitoring.

10.6 The Council's Secretariat will continue reviewing and improving both the manual and computerized procedures in order to further enhance efficiency in the provision of services to members of the profession as well as the public. In particular, arrangement has been made for information on the Council's website to be updated bi-monthly 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		
	2003	2004	2005
1. Conviction punishable with imprisonment	2	1	1
2. Disregard of professional responsibilities to patients	61	73	58
3. Abuse of alcohol or drugs	-	-	-
4. Abuse of dangerous or scheduled drugs	-	-	-
4A. Mandatory labeling of all dispensed medicines	-	-	-
5. Abuse of professional position in order to further an improper association or commit adultery	-	1	-
6. Abuse of professional confidence	-	-	-
7. Advertising	10	4	6
8. Depreciation of other dental practitioners	1	2	-
9. Canvassing	5	13	18
10. Misleading and unapproved descriptions and announcements	5	2	3
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	2	8	11
Total :	86	104	97

Table 2

Work of the Council's Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) in 2005

Nature	Total no. of Cases
Cases received and considered/being considered by PIC Chairman	97
Cases dismissed by PIC Chairman	65
Cases considered by the PIC (including cases carried forward from previous years)	21
Cases referred by the PIC to Dental Council for disciplinary inquiry	6

Table 3 Work Statistics of the Council's Preliminary Investigation Committee in 2005

	Jan.- Mar	Apr.- June	July- Sept.	Oct.- Dec.	Total
No. of PIC Meeting	2	2	2	2	8
No. of cases considered	4	4	7	6	21
No. of cases dismissed (%)	3 (75%)	3 (75%)	3 (42.9%)	2 (33.3%)	11 (52.4%)
No. of cases referred to inquiry (%)	1 (25%)	1 (25%)	4 (57.1%)	-	6 (28.6%)
Investigation in progress (%)	-	-	-	4 (66.7%)	4 (19%)

Table 4

Inquiries Conducted by the Dental Council in 2005

No. of Inquiries	Nature	Findings by Dental Council
1	Disciplinary Inquiry — Disregard of professional responsibilities to patient	1 Dentist served with Warning Letter (not gazetted)
3	Disciplinary Inquiry — Canvassing/ Advertising	1 Dentist being Reprimanded 2 Dentists served with Warning Letters (gazetted) 2 Dentists served with Warning Letters (not gazetted) 3 Dentists being Verbally Admonished 4 Dentists Not Guilty
2	Application for restoration in connection with a complaint against the applicant	1 application was not allowed and 1 application was allowed
1	Disciplinary Inquiry — Misleading and unapproved descriptions	Dismissed

Table 5

Figures on Appeal Cases

	2003	2004	2005
No. of Appeals lodged	1	-	1
No. of Appeal cases carried forward from previous years	2	1	-
Total No. of Appeal cases in progress in the year	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Result of appeal cases concluded in the year:			
(a) Dismissed by Consent	2	-	-
(b) Dismissed by Court of Appeal	-	1	-
(c) Allowed	-	-	-
(d) Allowed with Substitute Order	-	-	-
Total No. of Appeal cases concluded in the year	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2005	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Cycle 2

	Part I			Part II			Part III		
	No. Sat	No. Passed	Pass %	No. Sat	No. Passed	Pass %	No. Sat	No. Passed	Pass %
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	58	11	19%	30	5	17%	11	3	27%
	40	7	18%	20	4	20%	11	0	0%
	34	11	32%	16	3	19%	10	1	10%
	26	6	23%	11	3	27%	12	3	25%
	23	6	26%	13	4	31%	18	8	45%
	14	5	36%	18	8	44%	14	7	50%
	19	10	53%	19	6	32%	15	7	47%
	27	14	52%	25	6	24%	13	6	46%
	32	16	50%	29	5	17%	12	9	75%
	35	15	43%	37	17	46%	19	12	63%
	30	18	60%	28	14	50%	23	14	61%
	27	13	48%	26	10	38%	20	8	40%
	38	21	55%	30	11	37%	21	12	57%
	28	10	36%	21	11	52%	19	13	68%
	24	8	33%	13	5	38%	9	7	78%
	26	7	27%	12	5	42%	7	7	100%
	23	10	43%	16	6	38%	6	5	83%
	30	10	33%	20	5	25%	6	4	67%

Table 7 Number of Registered Dentists

(A) Total Number of dentists on the Register of Dentists of Hong Kong (as at 31 December 2005)

	2003	2004	2005
Dentists resident in Hong Kong	1,671	1,712	1,758
Dentists resident outside Hong Kong	177	180	183
Total	1,848 =====	1,892 =====	1,941 =====

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

	2003	2004	2005
New Registration	47	56	56
Restoration to the Register	11	12	12
Total	58 =====	68 =====	68 =====

