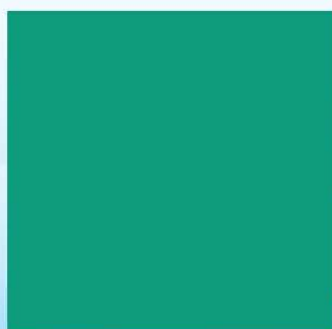


The Dental Council of Hong Kong



established since 1959

Annual Report 2009

Message from the Chairman

Dr. TSO Wei-kwok, Homer, BBS, JP

Chairman, Dental Council of Hong Kong

I am honoured to be elected to chair the Dental Council since October 2006. The ultimate objective of the Council is to protect members of the community and to upkeep public confidence in the dental profession. I and other Members of the Council hold strong belief to this conviction and have worked steadfastly for the continuous development of the dental profession for the common good of the community in Hong Kong.

Having regard to the establishment of the Education and Accreditation Committee under the Dentists Registration Ordinance in November 2006 with its statutory function to review and recommend to the Council the standard and structure of undergraduate dental education and training in dentistry, the Council has been working closely with the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong to map out details of the review exercise. Advice from accreditation experts from Canada will be sought in the process. We expect that the exercise will take some time to conclude.

The Education and Accreditation Committee is also drawing up revised guidelines for registration of additional qualifications under the new registration framework for the Council's consideration. Announcement of the revised guidelines is expected to be made in the latter half of 2010. A transitional period will be allowed to cater for dentists who have acquired or have been pursuing additional qualifications before the implementation of the revised guidelines.

The Council has accepted the recommendation of the Examination Committee to invite applications from general dentists to act as additional examiners in the Council's Licensing Examination. Subsequent to an open recruitment exercise, 10 applicants have been selected for training as additional examiners. The selected applicants have been arranged to observe the conduct of the Practical Test and Clinical Test of the 2009 Licensing Examination. Further training will also be provided in 2010. Those who have successfully completed training and pass the assessment will be offered substantive appointment by the Council and they are expected to commence their examiner role in the 2010 Licensing Examination.

In parallel, the Council is also actively deliberating the other recommendation of the Examination Committee regarding the Licensing Examination appeal mechanism for applicants seeking permission to take the examination and for candidates seeking redress of the examination results of any part of the examination. The appeal mechanism will be put in place as soon as practicable.

The current cycle on voluntary "continuing professional development" (CPD) programme for dentists will end on 31 December 2010. All practising dentists are encouraged to proactively engage in life-long learning to keep themselves abreast of new dental knowledge and service innovations. The CPD Accreditation Committee formed under the Council will continue monitoring the accreditation of CPD activities and conduct review of the CPD programme as necessary.

With regard to the Council's statutory function on regulating the conduct and discipline of registered dentists, it can be noted that 151 complaints or information against registered dentists were made to the Council in 2009, of which 101 cases were related to disregard of professional responsibilities to patients, with another 32 cases related to canvassing/advertising. While a majority of these cases have been screened out and dismissed by the Preliminary Investigation Committee and not to proceed to formal disciplinary proceedings, we take this as a clear indication of the trust which the public have placed on the investigation/disciplinary authorities of the Council. Opportunity is taken to remind that it is prohibited to settle disciplinary complaints in private or to attempt by either the complainant or the dentist involved in suppressing provision of information and evidence to the Council for its investigation into the case. Any such act may involve the criminal offence of perverting the course of public justice.

I am privileged of having the support and assistance of all the Council Members and staff of the Council Secretariat in furthering the work of the Council. I am confident of the continuous collaboration of the Council with members of the dental profession in the coming year to achieve sustained improvements to our professionalism and the quality of service standards.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This annual report, covering the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009, 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 relevant 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
E-mail : dchk@dh.gov.hk

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
E-mail : crol@dh.gov.hk

24-hour enquiry hotline : (852) 2574 4333
Dental Council's website : <http://www.dchk.org.hk>

2 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 specialist registration 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 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) 98 applications to sit for the licensing examination;
- (b) 66 applications for new registration;
- (c) 11 applications for inclusion in the Specialist Register;
- (d) 1,934 applications for renewal of annual practising certificates for dentists whose names are on the General Register for dentists resident in Hong Kong;
- (e) 151 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.

3 Membership of the Dental Council

3.1 Under section 4 of the Dentists Registration Ordinance, there should be 12 members in the Dental Council and the composition of the Council is as follows –

- (a) the Registrar (the consultant dental surgeon in charge of the Dental Service of the Department of Health (DH));
- (b) a consultant dental surgeon of the Dental Service of DH;
- (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 (HKU);
- (d) 2 medical practitioners;
- (e) 6 registered dentists to be appointed –
 - (i) from a panel of not less than 12 such registered dentists nominated by the Hong Kong Dental Association (HKDA); or
 - (ii) in the event of HKDA failing to nominate at least 12 such registered dentists, at the discretion of the Chief Executive; and
- (f) 1 lay member.

Members in (b) to (f) above are all appointed by the Chief Executive.

3.2 The membership of the Council in 2009 is as follow –

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

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

Dr Lee Kwing-hong, JP

Professor Nigel Martyn King (*up to 16.11.2009*)

Professor Lakshman Perera Samaranayake
(*since 17.11.2009*)

Dr Fan Yun-sun, Susan

Dr Leong Fung Ling-ye, Lilian, BBS, JP

Professor Esmonde Francis Corbet
(*up to 9.12.2009*)

Dr Chiu Tin-yan (*since 10.12.2009*)

Dr Ho Chi-wai, David

Dr Lau Chi-kai, George

Dr Chan Fook-ye, Franklin

Dr Sun Yee-wha, David

Miss Kong Yuen-hoong, Helen (*up to 31.8.2009*)

Miss Chan Chiu-ling, Ophelia, BBS
(*since 1.9.2009*)

The Council's Legal Adviser is Mr Chan Chor-chak, Charles, and its Secretary is Miss Leung Shun-chee, Evelyn.

4 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; or
 - (b) has been guilty of unprofessional conduct; or
 - (c) has obtained registration by fraud or misrepresentation; or
 - (d) has procured his name to be included in the Specialist Register by fraud or misrepresentation; or
 - (e) was not at the time of his registration entitled to be registered; or
 - (f) 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; or
 - (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 repealed Dentists Registration Ordinance 1940,
- an inquiry may be instituted to determine whether or not the name of the applicant should be admitted by the Council for entry to the General Register.
- 4.4 The Council has published a Code of Professional Discipline for information to each registered dentist to provide general guidance to him 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 as to 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 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 that the complaint is frivolous or groundless and should not proceed further, direct that the case be referred to the PIC for consideration;

4 Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Proceedings

- (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 Dental Council elected by the Council, who shall be the Chairman of the Committee;
- (b) 2 registered dentists 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 HKDA; or
 - (ii) in the event of HKDA failing to nominate at least 12 such registered dentists, at the discretion of the Chairman.

4.7 The membership of the PIC in 2009 is as follows –

Dr Sun Yee-wah, David (Chairman)

Dr Chan Sai-kwing

Dr Wong Chi-wai, David (*up to 31.5.2009*)

Dr Au Yeung Kim-hung, Nelson (*since 1.6.2009*)

4.8 In 2009, the Council had processed a total of 151 disciplinary cases, representing an increase of 26% when compared with the 2008's figure. **Table 1** shows the different nature of the complaints received. Comparative figures for the years 2007 and 2008 are also shown in the table. 67% of the complaints received were related to the disregard of professional responsibilities to patients.

4.9 The number of complaints processed in 2009 under the 3-stage process mentioned in paragraph 4.5 above is given in **Table 2**. Out of the 151 cases received, 78 were dismissed by the Chairman of the PIC. The PIC had held 6 meetings in 2009 and considered 18 cases (including 2 cases carried forward from 2008), out of which, 4 cases (i.e. 22%) were referred to the Council for inquiry.

4.10 **Table 3** gives a closer look into the PIC's work in 2009. 18 cases were discussed. Of the 4 cases referred for formal inquiry, 2 cases had been heard in 2009 and 2 cases are scheduled for 2010.

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 conduct. It was worth pointing out that some of the complaints touched on civil claims or compensation of professional negligence, rather than unprofessional conduct of the registered dentist which should more appropriately be dealt with through civil proceedings.

4 Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Proceedings

4.12 At an inquiry, the defendant dentist is normally represented by his 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, the Council has to be satisfied with the evidence put before it, and the standard of proof applied 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, any one of the following disciplinary sanctions may be considered –

- (a) removal of the dentist's name from the General Register and/or Specialist Register as appropriate; or
- (b) removal of the dentist's name from the General Register and/or Specialist Register as appropriate for such period as the Council may think fit; or

(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 2009. 5 inquiry cases were heard and concluded in 2009. In those 5 inquiries, the dentists involved were found guilty and were served with warning letters and/or had their names removed from the General Register for 1 month, 6 months and 9 months respectively.

4.16 Any dentist who is aggrieved by the order of the Council may appeal to the Court of Appeal of the High Court and the Court of Final Appeal. The Courts may affirm, reverse or vary the order appealed against. **Table 5** shows the number of appeals lodged against the Council's orders in the years 2007 through 2009. There was no appeal lodged in 2009 and two appeal cases carried forward from 2008 were still in progress in the year.

5 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 (one of them shall be the Chairman);
- (b) 2 registered dentists nominated by HKU;
- (c) 2 registered dentists nominated by the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong (CDSHK) of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM);
- (d) 2 registered dentists nominated by HKDA; and
- (e) 2 registered dentists being public officers and nominated by DH.

5.3 The membership of the Committee in 2009 is as follows –

Dr Lau Chi-kai, George (Chairman)
(Dental Council)
Dr Ho Chi-wai, David (Dental Council)
Professor Lakshman Perera Samaranyake (HKU)
Professor Esmonde Francis Corbet (HKU)
Professor Erik Urban Oskar Hägg (CDSHK)
Dr Tse Siu-kwong, Anthony (CDSHK)

Dr Leung Sai-man, Sigmund (HKDA)
(up to 15.4.2009)

Dr Liu Wai-ming, Haston (HKDA)
(since 11.5.2009)

Dr Lee Kin-man (HKDA)

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 HKU;
- (b) 1 registered dentist nominated by CDSHK;
- (c) 1 registered dentist nominated by HKDA; and
- (d) 1 registered dentist being a public officer and nominated by DH.

5.5 The membership of the Board of Examiners in 2009 is as follows –

Professor Nigel Martyn King (Chairman) (HKU)
Professor Cheung Lim-kwong (HKU)
Dr Cheung Shun-pan, Gary (HKU)
Professor Esmonde Francis Corbet (HKU)
Dr John Edwin Dyson (HKU) *(up to 29.11.2009)*
Dr Pow Ho-nang, Edmond (HKU) *(since 30.11.2009)*
Dr Pang Wai-yuk, Arthur (CDSHK)
Dr Wong Chi-wai (HKDA)
Dr Lam Tak-chiu, Wiley (DH)

5 Licensing Examination of the Dental Council

- 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 HKU.
- 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 is qualified to apply for 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 content and conduct of the examination for consideration of the Board of Examiners.
- 5.8 The examination is conducted annually by the Board of Examiners. At present, it consists of 3 parts as follows –
- (a) Part I - Multiple-choice question papers, to be taken in either Chinese or 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 the 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 the 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 Details of the results of the examinations, since its establishment in 1986, are shown at **Table 6**.

6 Registration and Restoration of Names of Dentists on the Register

- 6.1** As at 31 December 2009, names of 2,126 dentists were entered in the General Register, either as being residents in Hong Kong or residents outside Hong Kong. **Table 7(A)** shows that there has been a steady increase in the number of registered dentists from 2,025 in 2007, 2,074 in 2008 to 2,126 in 2009.
- 6.2** One of the major tasks for the Dental Council Secretariat is to keep the entries in the General Register accurate and up-to-date while enabling public access to those names currently registered on the list. Hundreds of transactions are carried out on the updating of the General Register on a monthly basis, which include change and/or addition of practising addresses, registration of additional qualifications, deletion from or restoration of the dentists' names to the General Register, transfer to and from the resident and non-resident 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 clinic for the practice of dentistry) and certificates verifying registration, etc. In addition, with the aim of providing a public service, the Council Secretariat processes an annual average of over 5,000 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public on registration-related matters.
- 6.3** **Table 7(B)** lists in detail the registration figures as well as cases of restoration to the General Register in 2007, 2008 and 2009 respectively.
- 6.4** In addition to the registered dentists with full registration, there were 17 “deemed-to-be registered” dentists in 2009. 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 HKU to discharge their teaching duties or perform hospital work in the Faculty of Dentistry of the University.
- 6.5** A dentist who has the qualifications, experience and other attributes approved by the Dental Council may apply to the Council for inclusion of his name in the Specialist Register under a specialty. The objective of maintaining a Specialist Register 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 2009, a total of 194 registered dentists had their names included in the Specialist Register under the following eight specialties – Orthodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Periodontology, Endodontics, Paediatric Dentistry, Prosthodontics, Family Dentistry and Community Dentistry.

6 Registration and Restoration of Names of Dentists on the Register

- 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 General Register. A total of 1,934 annual practising certificates for dentists resident in Hong Kong were issued in 2009, as compared with 1,888 practising certificates issued in 2008.
- 6.8** Every registered dentist whose name is on the General Register for dentists resident in Hong Kong is reminded at the end of the year that his practising certificate is due for renewal. A more advanced payment method was introduced in late 2009 by making use of the General Demand Note System (GDNS) of the Treasury to issue demand notes to dentists so that dentists can make payments directly through Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) of local banks, Payment by Phone Services (PPS), Internet banking as well as PayThruPost in all post offices in Hong Kong. A reminder letter was attached to the demand note to explain the new payment method and also to set out section 11A and section 15(3) of the Ordinance 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 General Register and the Specialist Register as necessary.

7 Education and Accreditation Committee (EAC)

- 7.1 The Education and Accreditation Committee (EAC) was set up under Section 5C of the Dentist Registration Ordinance. The EAC has the following functions –
- (a) to recommend to the Dental Council the specialties under which the names of registered dentists may be included in the Specialist Register ;
 - (b) to recommend to the Council the qualifications, experience and other attributes that qualify a registered dentist to have his name included in the Specialist Register under a specialty recommended by the Committee under (a) above ;
 - (c) to recommend to the Council the procedures and documentations for an application to include the name of a registered dentist in the Specialist Register ;
 - (d) to make recommendations to the Council so that it may decide whether the name of a registered dentist should be included in, or removed from, the Specialist Register;
 - (e) to review and recommend to the Council the standard and structure of undergraduate dental education and training in dentistry required for a person to become a registered dentist ; and
 - (f) such other functions as are imposed on it under the Dentists Registration Ordinance.
- 7.2 In addition, the EAC considers and recommends to the Council in respect of applications for registration of additional qualifications. However, the Council and the EAC have decided to impose a temporary moratorium in 2009 in respect of applications for registering new additional qualifications pending a full review of the policy. Applications in respect of dental qualifications which are already registrable with the Council will not be affected by the temporary moratorium and will continue be processed.
- 7.3 The composition of the EAC shall consist of the following members appointed by the Dental Council –
- (a) 3 members of the Council (one of them shall be the Chairman);
 - (b) a registered dentist nominated by HKU;
 - (c) a registered dentist nominated by HKAM;
 - (d) a registered dentist nominated by DH; and
 - (e) a registered dentist nominated by HKDA.

7 Education and Accreditation Committee (EAC)

7.4 The membership of the EAC in 2009 is as follows –

- Dr Lee Kwing-hong, JP
(Chairman) (Dental Council)
- Dr Lau Chi-kai, George (Dental Council)
- Dr Ho Chi-wai, David (Dental Council)
- Professor Erik Urban Oskar Hägg (HKU)
(up to 29.11.2009)
- Professor Cheung Lim-kwong (HKU)
(since 10.12.2009)
- Dr Yung Ching-wah (HKAM)
- Dr Tsang Chee-ching, Alfred (DH)
- Dr Leung Sai-man, Sigmund (HKDA)

7.5 As at 31 December 2009, a total of 194 dentists have been included in the Specialist Register under the following specialties –

Specialist title	No. of specialist dentists
Specialist in Orthodontics	56
Specialist in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	49
Specialist in Periodontology	16
Specialist in Endodontics	10
Specialist in Paediatric Dentistry	29
Specialist in Prosthodontics	20
Specialist in Family Dentistry	12
Specialist in Community Dentistry	2

8 Continuing Professional Development Accreditation Committee (CAC)

- 8.1** The existing 3-year cycle of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programme for practising dentists commenced on 1 January 2008 and continues to be on a voluntary basis. Same in the first two cycles, the CPD Programme 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 3-year cycle ending 31 December 2010.
- 8.2** As in the past, all registered dentists, including those deemed-to-be registered but excluding those on the overseas list, can enroll in the CPD Programme. Fellows of HKAM who can fulfill HKAM's CME/CPD requirements will be regarded as having met the CPD requirements of the Dental Council at the end of the cycle.
- 8.3** A CPD Accreditation Committee (CAC) is 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 Council ; and
 - (d) to conduct review of the CPD Programme for practising dentists.
- 8.4** The CAC comprises of the following representatives -
- (a) 3 representatives from the Dental Council (one of them shall be the Chairman);
 - (b) a representative from CDSHK;
 - (c) a representative from HKDA; and
 - (d) a representative from the Faculty of Dentistry of HKU.

8 Continuing Professional Development Accreditation Committee (CAC)

8.5 The membership of the CAC in 2009 is as follows -

Dr Chan Fook-ye, Franklin (Chairman)
(Dental Council)

Professor Esmonde Francis Corbet
(Dental Council) (*up to 9.12.2009*)

Dr Chiu Tin-yan (Dental Council)
(*since 10.12.2009*)

Dr Ho Chi-wai, David (Dental Council)

Professor Erik Urban Oskar Hägg (HKU)

Dr Hui Kwok-kuen, Kenneth (CDSHK)

Dr Leung Fun-shing, Vincent (HKDA)

8.6 Upon the recommendation 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

CDSHK

HKDA

CPD Programme Administrators

CDSHK

HKDA

DH (for Dental Officers of the Department of Health only)

CPD Programme Providers

CDSHK

HKDA

DH

Faculty of Dentistry of HKU

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

Hong Kong Society of Family Dentistry

8.7 As at 31 December 2009, a total of 786 registered dentists had enrolled in the Programme.

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, 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 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 so as 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) Information on the date of an upcoming inquiry of the Council;
 - (c) Text of the Code of Professional Discipline for the Guidance of Dental Practitioners in Hong Kong;
 - (d) Information pamphlet and form in relation to complaints against registered dentists;
 - (e) List of registered dentists;
 - (f) Guidelines and form in relation to application to be a specialist dentist;
 - (g) Text of the Annual Report of the Dental Council;
 - (h) Information on the Continuing Professional Development Programme (CPD) for Practising Dentists;
 - (i) List of dentists who have met the CPD requirements set by the Dental Council;
 - (j) Guidelines for entering additional qualifications on the General Register;
 - (k) List of registrable additional qualifications;
 - (l) Application for sitting the Licensing Examination of the Dental Council;
 - (m) Scope of dental work that may be undertaken by enrolled dental hygienists;
 - (n) Competences for the Hong Kong Dentist; and
 - (o) Judgments 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 directory of dentists developed by approved organizations. Since 2003, the Council has approved HKDA to develop an electronic directory of dentists.

10 Future Developments

- 10.1** The Dental Council is committed to continue 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 developments in technology and demands in dental service.
- 10.2** The Council believes that in an ever-evolving knowledge-based environment, dental practitioners have the obligation 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 raise further their professional competence, the Council has been running a voluntary continuing education programme for dentists since 2002. The Council will continue encouraging active participation of the registered dentists and to keep the programme under close monitoring.
- 10.3** The Council will continue to regularly look into the scope for improving procedures and processes in the handling of disciplinary cases of registered dentists to further enhance efficiency and transparency. Save for 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 has also been posted on the Council's website for information to members of the public and interested parties.
- 10.4** The Council's Secretariat will strive to continue enhancing its 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 regularly so as to provide the most up-to-date information on the various issues pertaining to the activities of the Council as well as the practice of dentistry in Hong Kong.

Table 1 Statistics on Disciplinary Cases Handled by the Dental Council

Nature	No. of Cases		
	2007	2008	2009
1. Conviction punishable with imprisonment	2	1	1
2. Disregard of professional responsibilities to patients	87	99	101
3. Abuse of alcohol or drugs	-	-	-
4. Abuse of dangerous or scheduled drugs	-	-	-
4A. Mandatory labeling of all dispensed medicines	1	-	-
5. Abuse of professional position in order to further an improper association or commit adultery	-	-	-
6. Abuse of professional confidence	-	-	-
7. Advertising	3	1	-
8. Depreciation of other dental practitioners	-	-	-
9. Canvassing (combined with "7. Advertising" with effect from 2009)	14	8	32
10. Misleading and unapproved descriptions and announcements	1	3	8
11. Improper financial transactions	-	-	-
12. Untrue or misleading certificates and other professional documents	1	-	-
13. Covering	-	-	-
14. Improper delegation of dental duties	1	-	1
15. Responsibility of partners and directors	-	-	-
16. Miscellaneous	14	8	8
Total :	124	120	151

Table 2 Work of the Council's Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) in 2009

Nature	Total no. of Cases
Cases received and considered/being considered by PIC Chairman	151
Cases dismissed by PIC Chairman	78
Cases considered by the PIC (including cases carried forward from previous years)	18
Cases referred by the PIC to Dental Council for disciplinary inquiry	4

Table 3 Work Statistics of the Council's Preliminary Investigation Committee in 2009

	Quarter				Total
	Jan.-Mar	Apr.-June	July-Sept.	Oct.-Dec.	
No. of PIC Meeting	1	2	1	2	6
No. of cases carried forward from previous quarter	2 (from 2008)	3	5	3	2 (from 2008)
No. of new cases considered	3	3	4	6	16
No. of cases dismissed (%)	2 (40%)	-	4 (45%)	6 (67%)	12 (67%)
No. of cases referred to inquiry (%)	-	1 (17%)	2 (22%)	1 (11%)	4 (22%)
Investigation in progress (%)	3 (60%)	5 (83%)	3 (33%)	3 (22%)	2 (11%)

Table 4 Inquiries Conducted by the Dental Council in 2009

No. of Inquiries	Nature	Findings by Dental Council
4 (Note)	Disregard of professional responsibilities to patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Dentists were served with warning letters (orders not to be gazetted) • 1 Dentist whose name was removed from the General Register for 6 months (order gazetted) • 1 Dentist whose name was removed from the General Register for 9 months (order gazetted)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conviction punishable with imprisonment • Miscellaneous – failed to report to the Council of the conviction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Dentist was served with a warning letter and whose name removed from the General Register for 1 month (orders gazetted)
Total : 5		

Note: Including 2 part-heard inquiries carried forward from 2008.

Table 5 Figures on Appeal Cases

	2007	2008	2009
No. of Appeals lodged	1	2	-
No. of Appeal cases carried forward from previous years	1	1	2
Total No. of Appeal cases in progress in the year	2	3	2
Result of appeal cases concluded in the year:			
(a) Dismissed by Consent	1	1	-
(b) Dismissed by Court of Appeal	-	-	1
(c) Allowed	-	-	-
(d) Allowed with Substitute Order	-	-	-
Total No. of Appeal cases concluded in the year	1	1	1

Table 6 Results of the Dental Council's Licensing Examination since 1986

Year	Cycle 1								
	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2007	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 6 Results of the Dental Council's Licensing Examination since 1986

Year	Cycle 2								
	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%
2005	30	10	33%	20	5	25%	6	4	67%
2006	29	18	62%	30	14	47%	12	6	50%
2007	27	10	37%	25	10	40%	16	9	59%
2008	41	18	44%	33	12	36%	16	12	75%
2009	49	20	41%	33	10	30%	16	10	63%

Table 7 Number of Registered Dentists

(A) Total Number of dentists on the Register of Dentists of Hong Kong (as at 31 December 2009)

	2007	2008	2009
Dentists resident in Hong Kong	1,842	1,888	1,934
Dentists resident outside Hong Kong	183	186	192
Total	2,025	2,074	2,126

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

	2007	2008	2009
New Registration	51	54	66
Restoration to the Register	9	6	2
Total	60	60	68

