

香港牙醫 管理委員會



1959年成立

2008年年報

The Dental Council of Hong Kong



established since 1959

Annual Report 2008

The Dental Council of Hong Kong

Annual Report 2008

香港牙醫管理委員會 二零零八年年報

Message from the Chairman

Dr. TSO Wei-kwok, Homer, BBS, JP
Chairman, Dental Council of Hong Kong

I feel honoured to be in the Chair of the Dental Council since October 2006. Members of the Council and I hold the strong conviction that the paramount objective of the Dental Council is to protect members of the public and to maintain public confidence in the dental profession. We are confident that the Council and members of the profession can work together in the continuous advancement of the dental profession for the common good of the community.

The Council had recently reviewed the Code of Professional Discipline on registered dentists governing practice promotion and consequently revised the provisions relating to dissemination of practice information. The revisions were issued to all dentists which took effect on 15 July 2008, the same being uploaded onto the Council's website for public information. The promulgation has helped clarify the lingering concerns which either the profession or the public may have on the matter.

The Council has made two separate visits to Canada in November 2008 and February 2009 on the Canadian dental education and accreditation system for issues of reference value to Hong Kong. Preparatory steps are being made for the drafting of a competency document for dentists stipulating the standard of competency required, applicable across the board to both local undergraduates and those trained outside Hong Kong applying for registration through the Licensing Examination conducted by the Council.

We are pleased to note that the setting up of the Specialist Register in November 2006 has facilitated the development of specialist practice amongst dentists and thereby enhanced the professional standing of dentists in the eyes of the public. There were a total of 183 dentists registered in one of the eight specialties under the Specialist Register by 31 December 2008. The Education and Accreditation Committee set up under the Council will uphold its statutory function in dealing with issues relating to specialist registration and related matters.

The voluntary "continuing professional development" programme for dentists has entered a new cycle starting on 1 January 2008 which 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 120 complaints were made to the Council in 2008, of which 99 cases were related to disregard of professional responsibilities to patients. Although a majority of these cases have not proceeded 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 to have the support and assistance of all the Council members and staff of the Council Secretariat in furthering the Council business. The Council is confident of the continuous collaboration 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 2008 to 31 December 2008, 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 : cro1@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 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) 90 applications to sit for the licensing examination;
- (b) 54 applications for new registration;
- (c) 18 applications for inclusion in the Specialist Register;
- (d) 1,888 applications for renewal of annual practising certificates for dentists whose names are on the General Register for dentists resident in Hong Kong;
- (e) 120 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

3.2 The membership of the Council in 2008 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
- Dr Fan Yun-sun, Susan
- Dr Leong Fung Ling-ye, Lilian, BBS, JP
- Professor Esmonde Francis Corbet
- 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

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, last updated on 15 July 2008, 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 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 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 2008 is as follows –

Dr Ho Chi-wai (Chairman) *(up to 4.10.2008)*

Dr Sun Yee-wah, David (Chairman)
(since 5.10.2008)

Dr Wong Chi-wai, David

Dr Yuen Kwok-wah *(up to 31.5.2008)*

Dr Chan Sai-kwing *(since 1.6.2008)*

4.8 In 2008, the Council had processed a total of 120 disciplinary cases, representing a slight decrease of 3.3% when compared with the 2007's figure. **Table 1** shows the different nature of the complaints received. Comparative figures for the years 2006 and 2007 are also shown in the table. 82.5% of the complaints received were related to the disregard of professional responsibilities to patients.

4.9 The number of complaints processed in 2008 under the 3-stage process mentioned in paragraph 4.5 above is given in **Table 2**. Out of the 120 cases received, 81 were dismissed by the Chairman of the PIC. The PIC had held 10 meetings in 2008 and considered 19 cases (including 2 cases carried forward from 2007), out of which 4 cases (i.e. 21%) were referred to the Council for inquiry.

4.10 **Table 3** gives a closer look into the PIC's work in 2008. Of the 4 cases referred for formal inquiry, 1 case was heard and 1 case partly heard in 2008 would be resumed in 2009. The hearing of the remaining 2 cases will be scheduled in 2009.

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 pointed out that some of the complaints had touched on civil claims of professional negligence not touching on unprofessional conduct of the registered dentist or compensation 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 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, 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 2008. 7 inquiry cases were heard/part-heard in 2008. Of the 5 concluded inquiries, dentists concerned in 2 of those inquiries were found not guilty as charged. For the other 3 concluded inquiries, the dentists involved were found guilty and were served with warning letter, reprimanded, or had her name removed from the General Register for 1 month with 12 months suspension respectively. As for the 2 part-heard inquiries, hearings will be resumed in 2009.

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 2006 through 2008. Two appeals were lodged in 2008 of which one has been withdrawn by the dentist concerned and the remaining appeal will be heard in 2009.

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 2008 is as follows –

Professor Esmonde Francis Corbet
(Chairman) (Dental Council) *(up to 4.2.2008)*

Dr Lau Chi-kai, George (Chairman)
(Dental Council) *(since 6.3.2008)*

Dr Sun Yee-wah, David (Dental Council)
(up to 3.12.2008)

Dr Ho Chi-wai, David (Dental Council)
(since 4.12.2008)

Professor Lakshman Perera Samaranayake
(HKU)

Professor Nigel Martyn King (HKU)
(up to 13.3.2008)

Professor Esmonde Francis Corbet (HKU)
(since 22.5.2008)

Professor Erik Urban Oskar Hägg (CDSHK)

Dr Tse Siu-kwong, Anthony (CDSHK)

Dr Leung Sai-man, Sigmund (HKDA)

Dr Wong Chi-wai (HKDA) *(up to 13.3.2008)*

Dr Lee Kin-man (HKDA) *(since 22.5.2008)*

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 2008 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)

Dr Tse Siu-kwong, Anthony (CDSHK)

Dr Wong Chi-wai (HKDA)

Dr Lee Kwing-hong, JP (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 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 content and conduct of 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, 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 2008, names of 2,074 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 1,979 in 2006, 2,025 in 2007 to 2,074 in 2008.
- 6.2** One of the major tasks for the Dental Council Secretariat is to keep these 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, as 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 2006, 2007 and 2008 respectively.
- 6.4** In addition to the registered dentists with full registration, there were 16 "deemed-to-be registered" dentists in 2008. 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 2008, a total of 183 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 1,888 annual practising certificates for dentists resident in Hong Kong were issued in 2008, as compared with 1,745 practising certificates issued in 2007.
- 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. 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 the dentist 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 in November 2006 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.

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 the 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 2008 is as follows –

Dr Lee Kwing-hong, JP (Chairman)
(Dental Council)

Dr Lau Chi-kai, George (Dental Council)

Dr Sun Yee-wah, David (Dental Council)
(up to 3.12.2008)

Dr Ho Chi-wai, David (Dental Council)
(since 4.12.2008)

Professor Erik Urban Oskar Hägg (HKU)

Dr Yung Ching-wah (HKAM)

Dr Tsang Chee-ching, Alfred (DH)

Dr Leung Sai-man, Sigmund (HKDA)

7.5 As at 31 December 2008, a total of 183 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	13
Specialist in Endodontics	9
Specialist in Paediatric Dentistry	27
Specialist in Prosthodontics	17
Specialist in Family Dentistry	12
Specialist in Community Dentistry	0

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 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 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 2008 is as follows -

Dr Lee Kwing-hong, JP (Chairman)
(Dental Council) *(up to 5.3.2008)*

Dr Chan Fook-yee, Franklin (Chairman)
(Dental Council) *(since 6.3.2008)*

Professor Esmonde Francis Corbet
(Dental Council)

Dr Lau Chi-kai, George (Dental Council)
(up to 2.5.2008)

Dr Sun Yee-wah, David (Dental Council)
(20.5.2008 - 3.12.2008)

Dr Ho Chi-wai, David (Dental Council)
(since 4.12.2008)

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

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 In 2008, the Dental Council had, on the recommendation of the CAC, awarded CPD Certificates to 865 practising dentists who had satisfactorily completed the CPD Cycle ending 31 December 2007. These dentists are allowed to use the title "CPD Certified (valid up to 31/12/2010)" in their visiting cards and letterheads.

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; and
 - (m) Scope of dental work that may be undertaken by enrolled dental hygienists.
- 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** In light of a court judgment touching on rules governing practice promotion, the Council has studied and revised the relevant provisions of the Code of Professional Discipline and promulgated in July 2008. Efforts will continue be made to review and update the Code in view of advances in dental services as well as changes in societal demands.
- 10.4** 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.
- 10.5** 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		
	2006	2007	2008
1. Conviction punishable with imprisonment	1	2	1
2. Disregard of professional responsibilities to patients	95	87	99
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	2	3	1
8. Depreciation of other dental practitioners	-	-	-
9. Canvassing	15	14	8
10. Misleading and unapproved descriptions and announcements	4	1	3
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	8	14	8
Total :	126	124	120

Table 2 Work of the Council's Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) in 2008

Nature	Total no. of Cases
Cases received and considered/being considered by PIC Chairman	120
Cases dismissed by PIC Chairman	81
Cases considered by the PIC (including cases carried forward from previous years)	19
Cases referred by the PIC to Dental Council for disciplinary inquiry	4

Table 3 Work Statistics of the Council's Preliminary Investigation Committee in 2008

	Jan.-Mar	Apr.-June	July-Sept.	Oct.-Dec.	Total
No. of PIC Meeting	2	2	3	3	10
No. of cases considered	2	2	6	9	19
No. of cases dismissed (%)	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	3 (50%)	8 (88.9%)	13 (68.4%)
No. of cases referred to inquiry (%)	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	2 (33.3%)	-	4 (21.1%)
Investigation in progress (%)	-	-	1 (16.7%)	1 (11.1%)	2 (10.5%)

Table 4 Inquiries Conducted by the Dental Council in 2008

No. of Inquiries	Nature	Findings by Dental Council
6 (Note)	Disregard of professional responsibilities to patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Dentist was found not guilty • 1 Dentist was served with a warning letter (order to be gazetted) • 1 Dentist was reprimanded (order gazetted) • 1 Dentist whose name was removed from the General Register with a suspension of 12 months (order not yet gazetted pending the result of the dentist's appeal)
1	Advertising/Canvassing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Dentist was found not guilty
Total : 7		

Note: Including 2 part-heard inquiries which will resume hearing in 2009

Table 5 Figures on Appeal Cases

	2006	2007	2008
No. of Appeals lodged	1	1	2
No. of Appeal cases carried forward from previous years	-	1	1
Total No. of Appeal cases in progress in the year	1	2	3
Result of appeal cases concluded in the year:			
(a) Dismissed by Consent	-	1	1
(b) Dismissed by Court of Appeal	-	-	-
(c) Allowed	1	-	-
(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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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%

Table 7 Number of Registered Dentists

(A) Total Number of dentists on the Register of Dentists of Hong Kong (as at 31 December 2008)

	2006	2007	2008
Dentists resident in Hong Kong	1,799	1,842	1,888
Dentists resident outside Hong Kong	180	183	186
Total	1,979	2,025	2,074

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

	2006	2007	2008
New Registration	53	51	54
Restoration to the Register	4	9	6
Total	57	60	60

Number of Registered Dentists

