

The Dental Council of Hong Kong



established since 1959

Annual Report
2006

Message from the Chairman

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



It is a great honor for me to be elected Chairman of the Dental Council in October 2006. Having devoted my career to the dental profession and community service in the past years, I firmly believe that the interests of the public are of paramount importance, and it is the duty of the Council to protect such interests. I do not consider there should be any conflicts between the interests of the dental profession and that of the public. I also firmly believe that the Council and the profession together can work in unison to further the interest of the public.

With the continuing efforts of the Council to bring about a better regulatory framework for the dental profession, the Dentists Registration (Amendment) Ordinance came into operation on 30 November 2006. Under the amendment ordinance, a statutory Specialist Register was established for registered dentists qualified in various specialist fields of dentistry. The amendment not only provides the legal basis on the requirements and procedures for specialist registration, but will also facilitate development of specialist practice in the dental profession and enhance their professional standing. A new statutory Education and Accreditation Committee has also been set up under the Council to deal with matters relating to specialist registration and related matter.

With regards to the other major function of the Council to deal with conduct and discipline of registered dentists, it is noted that the number of complaints received in 2006 was 126, representing a 30% increase as compared to 97 cases received

in 2005. This can be explained as a result of the significant increase of complaints relating to disregard of professional responsibilities to patients, with a marked jump from 58 cases in 2005 to 95 cases in 2006. Whilst most of the complaints did not proceed to the Preliminary Investigation Committee or inquiry stages, the increased number of complaints help reflect the increasing expectation and demand of the general public on the profession as well as the faith of members of the public on the work of the Council. The Council will stay adamant to work for improving and enhancing the sense of professional ethics and service standards of the profession.

The work of the Council counts much on the support and assistance of all the Council Members, both professional and lay, as well as staff of the Council Secretariat. I look forward to the continuous collaboration amongst fellow colleagues in the Council and the support from the members of the profession in the coming year to achieve continued improvements to our professionalism and quality of service standards.

Last but not least, I would like to thank, on behalf of fellow colleagues of the Council, for the long dedicated and invaluable contributions of the former Chairman, Dr Tsang Yick-sang, Jeffrey, MBE over the past years. We all wish him a happy retirement.

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Introduction

- 1.1 This annual report, covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2006, 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>

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) 71 applications to sit for the licensing examinations;
 - (b) 53 applications for registration;
 - (c) 31 applications for permission to use specialist titles and for inclusion in the Specialist Register;
 - (d) 1,794 applications for renewal of annual practising certificates for dentists whose names are on the General Register for dentists resident in Hong Kong;
 - (e) 126 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.

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) (up to 30.9.2006)

Dr Tso Wei-kwok, Homer, BBS, JP
(Chairman) (since 5.10.2006)

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

Dr Lee Kwing-hong, JP

Professor Anne Sinclair McMillan
(up to 16.11.2006)

Professor Nigel Martyn King
(since 17.11.2006)

Professor Ip Sau-man, Mary

Dr Fan Yun-sun, Susan

Dr Esmonde Francis Corbet

Dr Ho Chi-wai, David

Dr Lau Chi-kai, George

Dr Fok Ka-hang, Tony
(up to 30.9.2006)

Dr Chan Fook-yee, Franklin
(since 1.10.2006)

Dr Sun Yee-wha, David
(since 1.10.2006)

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.

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 18(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 General 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.

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Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Proceedings

- 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 Tso Wei-kwok, Homer, BBS, JP (Chairman) (up to 4.10.2006)**
 - Dr Ho Chi-wai (Chairman) (since 5.10.2006)**
 - Dr Chiang, Stanley Li-biau**
 - Dr Lai Sik-hung, Francis (up to 31.5.2006)**
 - Dr Yuen Kwok-wah (since 1.6.2006)**

Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Proceedings

- 4.8 In 2006, the Council had processed a total of 126 disciplinary cases, representing an increase of 29.9% when compared with the 2005's figure. The increase was mainly attributable to the increase 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 2004 and 2005 are also shown in the table. 75.4% of the complaints received were related to the disregard of professional responsibilities to patients.
- 4.9 The number of complaints processed in 2006 under the 3-stage process mentioned in paragraph 4.5 above is given in **Table 2**. Out of the 126 cases received, 99 were dismissed by the Chairman. The PIC had held 9 meetings in 2006 and considered 22 cases in total (including 2 cases carried forward from 2005), out of which 10 cases (i.e. 45.5%) were referred to the Council for inquiry.
- 4.10 **Table 3** gives a closer look into the PIC's work in 2006. 5 of the 10 cases referred for formal inquiry were heard in 2006; and 4 of the remaining cases were held in abeyance in consideration of the relevance to an appeal which the Medical Council of Hong Kong had filed against the High Court judgment in case no. HCAL 46/2006. Hearing of the remaining 1 case would be scheduled in 2007.
- 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 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.

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Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Proceedings

- 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 General Register;
 - (b) removal of the dentist's name from the General Register 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 2006. A total of 8 inquiries were held in the year. The Council found the dentists concerned guilty of unprofessional conduct in 7 of the 8 disciplinary inquiries.
- 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 2004 to 2006. One appeal was lodged in 2006 and was subsequently withdrawn.

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 -

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

5.3 The membership of the Committee in 2006 is as follows -

Professor Anne Sinclair McMillan (Chairman) (Dental Council) (up to 16.11.2006)

Dr Tso Wei-kwok, Homer BBS, JP (Dental Council)

Professor Lakshman Perera Samaranayake (HKU)

Professor Nigel Martyn King (HKU)

Professor Erik Urban Oskar Hägg (CDSHK)

Dr Tse Siu-kwong, Anthony (CDSHK)

Dr Wong Chi-wai (HKDA)

Dr Leung Sai-man, Sigmund (HKDA)

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

Dr Yau Chuen-kam (DH)

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

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

5.5 The membership of the Board of Examiners in 2006 is as follows -

Professor Nigel Martyn King (Chairman) (HKU)

Professor Cheung Lim-kwong (HKU)

Dr Cheung Shun-pan, Gary (HKU)

Dr Esmonde Francis Corbet (HKU)

Dr John Edwin Dyson (HKU)

Dr Zee Kwan-yat (CDSHK)

Dr Tsang Wai-kit (HKDA)

Dr Lee Kwing-hong, JP (DH)

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 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 2006, 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**.

Registration and Restoration

- 6.1 As at 31 December 2006, 1,991 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 slight increase in the number of registered dentists from 1, 892 in 2004, 1,941 in 2005 to 1,979 in 2006, 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 from or 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 processes 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 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively.
- 6.4 In addition to the registered dentists with full registration, there were 15 "deemed-to-be registered" dentists in 2006. 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 inclusion of their names in the Specialist Register. 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 2006, a total of 164 registered dentists had their names included in the Specialist Register under the following specialties - Orthodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Periodontology, Endodontics, Paediatric Dentistry, Prosthodontics and Family Dentistry.

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Registration and Restoration

- 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 1,794 annual practising certificates for dentists resident in Hong Kong were issued in 2006, as compared with 1,766 practising certificates issued in 2005.
- 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" 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 take leave 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.

Credentials Committee/ Education and Accreditation Committee (EAC)

- 7.1 The Credentials Committee was set up 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.
- 7.2 The Credentials Committee was dissolved on 30 November 2006 upon the enactment of the Dentist Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2006 on 30 November 2006 which provided a legal framework for the setup of a Specialist Register of dentists and a statutory Education and Accreditation Committee (EAC) to take over the functions of the Credentials Committee.
- 7.3 In accordance with Section 5C of the Dentist Registration Ordinance, the EAC has the following functions -
- i) to recommend to the Dental Council the specialties under which the names of registered dentists may be included in the Specialist Register ;
 - ii) 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 (i) above ;
 - iii) to recommend to the Council the procedures and documentations for an application to include the name of a registered dentist in the Specialist Register ;
 - iv) 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;
 - v) to review and recommend to the Council the standard and structure of undergraduate dental education and training in dentist required for a person to become a registered dentist ; and
 - vi) such other functions as are imposed on it under the Dentist Registration Ordinance.
- 7.4 In addition, the EAC is also tasked to consider and make recommendations to the Council on applications of registration of additional qualifications.

Credentials Committee/ Education and Accreditation Committee (EAC)

7.5 The membership of the Credentials Committee and the EAC is as follows -

Credentials Committee (dissolved on 30 November 2006)

Professor Anne Sinclair McMillan
(Chairman) (up to 16.11.2006)

Dr Fok Ka-hang, Tony (up to 30.9.2006)

Dr Ho Chi-wai, David (since 25.1.2006)

Dr Lau Chi-kai, George (since 25.1.2006)

Dr Yan Sik-wing (Co-opted Member)

Education and Accreditation Committee (established on 30 November 2006)

Dr Lee Kwing-hong, JP (Chairman)

Dr Tso Wei-kwok, Homer, BBS, JP
(Dental Council)

Dr Lau Chi-kai, George
(Dental Council)

Professor Erik Urban Oskar Hägg
(HKU)

Dr Yung Ching-wah (HKAM)

Dr Tsang Chee-ching, Alfred (DH)

Dr Leung Sai-man, Sigmund (HKDA)

7.6 Under the transitional arrangement, all dentists who had been approved by the Council to use a specialist title before 30 November 2006 should have their names included in the Specialist Register in accordance with Section 32 of the amended Ordinance.

7.7 As at 31 December 2006, a total of 164 dentists have been included in the Specialist Register under the following specialties :

Specialist title	No. of specialist dentists
Specialist in Orthodontics	51
Specialist in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	41
Specialist in Periodontology	9
Specialist in Endodontics	8
Specialist in Paediatric Dentistry	26
Specialist in Prosthodontics	17
Specialist in Family Dentistry	12

Continuing Professional Development Accreditation Committee (CAC)

- 8.1 The current 2 1/2 years' Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programme for practising dentists commenced on 1 July 2005 and continues to be on a voluntary basis. Same in the first cycle, 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 2 1/2 years cycle ending 31 December 2007.
- 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 Council at the end of the 2 1/2 cycle.
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 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 Dentist, the University of Hong Kong (HKU).

Continuing Professional Development Accreditation Committee (CAC)

8.5 The membership of the CAC in 2006 is as follows -

Dr Lee Kwing-hong, JP (Chairman)

Professor Anne Sinclair McMillan
(up to 16.11.2006)

Dr Lau Chi-kai, George (since 25.1.2006)

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

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

8.7 The CAC conduct regular reviews of the voluntary CPD Programme at 6-month intervals. As at 31 December 2006, a total of 802 registered dentists had enrolled in the Programme.

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 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 -
- i) Membership of the Council and its subsidiary committees and boards;
 - ii) Information on the date of an upcoming inquiry of the Council;
 - iii) Text of the Code of Professional Discipline for the Guidance of Dental Practitioners in Hong Kong;
 - iv) Information pamphlet and form in relation to complaints against registered dentists;
 - v) List of registered dentists;
 - vi) Guidelines and forms in relation to application to be a specialist dentist;
 - vii) Text of the Annual Report of the Dental Council;
 - viii) Continuing Professional Development Programme (CPD) for Practising Dentists;
 - ix) List of dentists who have met the Continuing Medical Education requirements set by the Dental Council;
 - x) Guideline for the Registration of Additional Qualifications;
 - xi) List of registrable additional qualifications; and
 - xii) Application for sitting the Licensing Examination 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.

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 developments in technology and dental services.
- 10.2 The new statutory Specialist Register has been established with the aim to support the furtherance of development of specialist practice in the dental profession and to enhance their professional standing. Active discussions have also been made by the new Education and Accreditation Committee to review the Guideline for the Registration of Additional Qualifications by the Dental Council in order to keep it update and abreast of the requirements and developments in dentistry.
- 10.3 The Council regularly looks into the scope for improving procedures and processes in the handling of disciplinary cases of registered dentists to further enhance efficiency and transparency. The information pamphlet and complaint form in respect of lodging complaint against a registered dentist is under review, taking into account of experience and comments received in the past years. The revised version will be uploaded on the Council's website for public's access when available. Further, 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 is also posted on the Council's website for information of members of the public and interested parties.
- 10.4 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 current programme has commenced in July 2005 and run until December 2007. The Council will continue encouraging active participation of the participating dentists and to keep the programme under close monitoring.
- 10.5 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. Preparation for information on the Council's website be presented in Chinese is near completion, and the Chinese text should be ready for uploading on the website in the first quarter of 2007.

Table 1

Statistics on Disciplinary Cases Handled by the Dental Council

Complaints Received by the Dental Council

Nature	No. of Cases		
	2004	2005	2006
1. Conviction punishable with imprisonment	1	1	1
2. Disregard of professional responsibilities to patients	73	58	95
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	4	6	2
8. Depreciation of other dental practitioners	2	-	-
9. Canvassing	13	18	15
10. Misleading and unapproved descriptions and announcements	2	3	4
11. Improper financial transactions	-	-	-
12. Untrue or misleading certificates and other professional documents	-	-	-
13. Covering	-	-	-
14. Improper delegation of dental duties	-	-	1
15. Responsibility of partners and directors	-	-	-
16. Miscellaneous	8	11	8
Total :	104	97	126

Table 2

Work of the Council's Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) in 2006

Nature	Total no. of Cases
Cases received and considered/being considered by PIC Chairman	126
Cases dismissed by PIC Chairman	99
Cases considered by the PIC (including cases carried forward from previous years)	22
Cases referred by the PIC to Dental Council for disciplinary inquiry	10

Table 3

Work Statistics of the Council's Committee in 2006

	Jan.-Mar	Apr.-June	July-Sept.	Oct.-Dec.	Total
No. of PIC Meeting	4	2	1	2	9
No. of cases considered	12	4	4	2	22
No. of cases dismissed (%)	8 (66.7%)	1 (25%)	1 (25%)	-	10 (45.5%)
No. of cases referred to inquiry (%)	4 (33.3%)	3 (75%)	3 (75%)	-	10 (45.5%)
Investigation in progress (%)	-	-	-	-	2 (9%)

Table 4

Inquiries Conducted by the Dental Council in 2006

No. of Inquiries	Nature	Findings by Dental Council
3	Disregard of professional responsibilities to patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Dentists were served with Warning Letters (gazetted)• 1 Dentist whose name was removed from the General Register for 3 months with suspension period of 12 months (gazetted)
1	Improper delegation of dental duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Dentist whose name was removed from the General Register and the Specialist Register for 1 month (gazetted)
1	Conviction punishable with imprisonment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Dentist whose name was removed from the General Register for 12 months (gazetted)
1	Misleading and unapproved descriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case was dismissed
2	Advertising/ Canvassing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Dentists were served with Warning Letters (not gazetted)
Total : 8		

Table 5

Figures on Appeal Cases

No. of Appeals lodged	-	1	1
No. of Appeal cases carried forward from previous years	1	-	-
Total No. of Appeal cases in progress in the year	1	1	1

(a) Dismissed by Consent	-	-	-
(b) Dismissed by Court of Appeal	1	-	-
(c) Allowed	-	-	1
(d) Allowed with Substitute Order	-	-	-
Total No. of Appeal cases concluded in the year	1	-	1

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Cycle 2									
Year	Part I			Part II			Part III		
	No. Sat	No. Passed	Pass %	No. Sat	No. Passed	Pass %	No. Sat	No. Passed	Pass %
1986	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1987	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1988	58	11	19%	30	5	17%	11	3	27%
1989	40	7	18%	20	4	20%	11	0	0%
1990	34	11	32%	16	3	19%	10	1	10%
1991	26	6	23%	11	3	27%	12	3	25%
1992	23	6	26%	13	4	31%	18	8	45%
1993	14	5	36%	18	8	44%	14	7	50%
1994	19	10	53%	19	6	32%	15	7	47%
1995	27	14	52%	25	6	24%	13	6	46%
1996	32	16	50%	29	5	17%	12	9	75%
1997	35	15	43%	37	17	46%	19	12	63%
1998	30	18	60%	28	14	50%	23	14	61%
1999	27	13	48%	26	10	38%	20	8	40%
2000	38	21	55%	30	11	37%	21	12	57%
2001	28	10	36%	21	11	52%	19	13	68%
2002	24	8	33%	13	5	38%	9	7	78%
2003	26	7	27%	12	5	42%	7	7	100%
2004	23	10	43%	16	6	38%	6	5	83%
2005	30	10	33%	20	5	25%	6	4	67%
2006	29	18	62%	30	14	47%	12	6	50%

Table 7

Number of Registered Dentists

(A) Total Number of dentists on the Register of Dentists of Hong Kong (as at 31 December 2006)			
	2004	2005	2006
Dentists resident in Hong Kong	1,712	1,758	1,799
Dentists resident outside Hong Kong	180	183	180
Total	1,892	1,941	1,979

(B) Breakdown of new registration and restoration of names to the Register			
	2004	2005	2006
New Registration	56	56	53
Restoration to the Register	12	12	4
Total	68	68	57

