

The Hong Kong dental Association has 1,500 member dentists out of a total of 1800 dentists in Hong Kong. It, therefore, represents 85% of all dentists in Hong Kong. Membership of the Hong Kong Dental Association consists of both general dental practitioners and dental specialists. The Hong Kong Dental Association wishes to make the following statements in response to the Bills Committee on Dentists Registration (Amendment) Bill 2005.

- A. We agree to name the existing register of dentists as the General Register. The Registrar is responsible for the maintenance and custody of the General Register and the Specialist Register.
- B. A Specialist Register should only be established under one of the following conditions.
 - i) This Register should include the names of registered dentists approved by the Dental Council of Hong Kong using the specialty title before the commencement of the Bill. This is so called the 'Grandfather Clause'. The proposed 'Dentists Registration (Amendment) Bill 2005' should not be passed into law unless this issue is resolved, or
 - ii). Dentists that have satisfied the academic qualifications and character requirements of the Dental Council of Hong Kong, and whose applications have been approved by the Council.
- C The Hong Kong Dental Association agrees to the establishment of an Education and Accreditation Committee (EAC).
- D The Hong Kong Dental Association agrees that the Education and Accreditation Committee has the discretion to handle complaints or information involving the suitability of a dental practitioner who wishes to have his name included in the Specialist Register.

Special Comments:

Many dental specialists were approved by the Dental Council as dental specialists long before the establishment of

the Academy of Medicine. Due to their own reasons, these specialists did not join the Academy of Medicine during its establishment. However, these specialists were qualified at the time of registration and were told that their titles would be retained indefinitely regardless if they join the Academy of Medicine. It would be unfair and inappropriate to exclude these specialists from the specialist register with the passing of the Bill. Should that be the case, the Hong Kong Dental Association, which represents 85% of all the dentists in Hong Kong, would oppose the passage of this Bill.