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**THE COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGEONS OF HONG KONG**  
**香港牙科醫學院**

(Incorporated with Limited Liability)



A Constituent College of The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine

**President**

Dr Bill Sik Wing YAN

甄錫榮

7 December 2005

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President**

Dr Kwing Hong LBE

李炯康

Ms Doris Chan

Clerk to Bills Committee

Legislative Council Secretariat

3/F, Citibank Tower

3 Garden Road

Central

Hong Kong

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President**

Dr Tak Wah CHOW

周德華

**Hon Secretary**

Dr Anthony Siu Kwong TSE

謝紹光

Dear Ms Chan

**Hon Treasurer**

Dr Michael Ngai Ying CHAU

周毅英

**Re: Bills Committee on Dentists Registration (Amendment) Bill  
2005****Censor-in-Chief**

Dr William Ching Wah YUNG

容清華

Thank you for your letter dated 24 November 2005.

Enclosed herewith is the written submission of the above issue. I will represent our College to attend the meeting to be held on 13 December 2005. Please note that we do not wish to make oral presentations to the Bills Committee on that meeting.

**Council Members**

Dr Joseph Cho Yee CHAN

陳祖貽

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact me.

Prof Urban HÄGG

Dr Wiley Tak Chiu LAM

林德昭

Yours sincerely

Dr Tat Ming LEUNG

梁達明

Dr Bill Yan

President

Dr John Yu Kong LING

林友港

Prof Edward Chin Man LO

盧展民

Dr Alfred Chee Ching TSANG

曾志清

Dr Eddie Chuen Kam YAU

邱傳淦

Dr Kwan Yat ZEE

徐君逸

Room 902, HKAM Jockey Club Building, 99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong  
 Tel: (852) 28718866 Fax: (852) 28736731 E-mail: info@cdshk.org

# **Comments on the Dentists Registration (Amendment) Bill 2005 from the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong**

## **Background**

The College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong (CDSHK) was incorporated in February 1993. As one of the 15 constituent Colleges and the only dental College of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM), the main objectives of CDSHK are:

- To promote and support the objects of the HKAM;
- To promote for the public benefit the advancement of knowledge in the field of dental surgery and its associated subjects (Dental Surgery);
- To act as an authoritative body for the purpose of consultation on matters of educational or public interest concerning Dental Surgery; and
- To promote training and research in Dental Surgery

Membership of the College is divided into Fellows (including Honorary Fellows) and Ordinary Members.

Since its inception the CDSHK has worked towards its goal of organizing dental specialist training pathways and setting up internationally recognized benchmarks for our profession. Currently seven specialties (Orthodontics, Paediatric Dentistry, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Endodontics, Periodontology, Prosthodontics, Family Dentistry) have been recognized by the HKAM. Each has hosted its own Conjoint Intermediate Examination (with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh) and Exit Examinations for College trainees.

The continuing education of dental professional is also a central goal for the CDSHK. The College Fellows are required to achieve a minimal of 90 Continuing Medical Education (CME) points (through professional education activities endorsed by the CME subcommittee) over a period of three years.

## **Establishment of a Specialist Register**

Since its establishment in 1959, the Hong Kong Dental Council (HKDC) has been granting approval to use specialist titles to registered dentists. In the 1980s the HKDC formally required such to have relevant post-graduate

dental qualifications followed by two years of supervised training.

In 2001, the HKDC decided that only dentists with a Fellowship in Dental Surgery of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine or of equivalent status would be considered for approval to use specialist titles.

The CDSHK agrees that a statutory Specialist Register for registered dentists qualified in various specialty fields of dentistry be established.

From the public interest point of view, unauthorized use of a specialist title is not only misleading but may also lead to significant health hazards. From the professional and ethical points of view, this may represent an unprofessional conduct. The CDSHK agrees that a penalty in line with the Medical Registration Ordinance should be appropriate.

### **Establishment and composition of Education and Accreditation Committee (EAC)**

The CDSHK agrees to set up a statutory Education and Accreditation Committee for handling matters relating to specialist registration.

The CDSHK also agrees to the composition of the EAC which ensures not only proper representation of the sectors concerned but also the consisting of members who are themselves qualified to be included in the Specialist Register.

### **Recommendation by the HKAM**

The CDSHK agrees that all applications for inclusion in the Specialist Register, under the amended Dentists Registration Ordinance, should be certified by the HKAM. Suffice it to say the CDSHK welcomes the amendment, which gives HKAM a role parallel to that provided by the Medical Registration Ordinance.

The CDSHK under HKAM will continue our role to monitor the statutory Continuing Education requirement.

### **Dentists who are already on the Specialist List**

The CDSHK welcomes the transitional arrangement provided for all those already approved by the HKDC to use a specialist title as in Clause 24.

## **Conclusion**

The setting up of a statutory Specialist Register is important for the public. It gives clearer indication to the level of professional service they are receiving.

For the specialist dentists, their level of training and competence will be properly recognized on a legal basis.

Therefore the CDSHK strongly supports the Dentists Registration (Amendment) Bill 2005.