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May 26, 2014

Professor the Hon. Lee Kok Long, Joseph
Chairman, Bills Committee
Pharmacy and Poisons (Amendment) Bill 2014
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Re: Support of Pharmacy and Poisons Amendment Bill 2014

Dear Professor the Honorable Lee,

On behalf of the Chinese University of Hong Kong School of Pharmacy, I wish to express our support of the Pharmacy and Poisons Amendment Bill 2014 to implement some of the recommendations of the Review Committee to enhance the regulation of pharmaceutical products, as articulated in the 2010 report. We also noted that the Government has taken this opportunity to update some other provisions of the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance to bring these provisions in line with the prevailing regulatory framework in Hong Kong which we also support. This is an important step forward in ensuring access of the citizens of Hong Kong to quality and safe medicine that meets international standards. Timely approval of this Amendment is imperative given the proliferation of sources as well as distribution channels of pharmaceutical products today.

We must take a holistic view in the subject of the Amendment, which represents the best thinking and collective wisdom of leaders in the various sectors concerning pharmaceutical products and representatives in the profession and the pharmaceutical trade for the past three years. This is not the time to introduce other issues that may also be important, such as the need for a Pharmacy Council which should be carefully considered and deliberated in separate occasion. For now, it is important to focus on the substance of the Amendment and act in the best interest of the users of pharmaceutical products in Hong Kong.

To reiterate, the Chinese University of Hong Kong School of Pharmacy supports the Pharmacy and Poisons Amendment Bill 2014 with enthusiasm. Legislative approval of this Amendment will be a major milestone in modernizing the regulatory framework of pharmaceutical products in Hong Kong.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if additional information or clarification is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vincent H.L. Lee'.

Vincent H.L. Lee, PhD, D.Sc.
Professor and Director
School of Pharmacy
Faculty of Medicine
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

