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8 April 2016

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Hon Vincent Fang Chairman, Bills Committee Legislative Council Secretariat Legislative Council Complex 1 Legislative Council Road Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Fang,

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Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2016

Further to our letter of 30 March 2016 with views on the captioned subject, we would like to supplement our previous submission with a few points regarding the composition of the Medical Council.

- 1. The Academy is an independent institution empowered by statute to organize, monitor, set standard for, assess and accredit all medical specialist training; and to oversee the provision of continuing medical education in Hong Kong. Its representation at the Medical Council is comparable to that of the two Universities the Academy is on "postgraduate" while the Universities are on "undergraduate" medical training.
- 2. Given that the Specialist Register is under the purview of Medical Council, representation from medical specialists is essential; and the Academy is the only statutory body representing specialists.
- 3. As mentioned in our letter dated 30 March 2016, the two members from the Academy are nominated and elected by the Academy Council. According to the MRO section 3(2)(i), the 7 registered medical practitioners who are members of the Hong Kong Medical Association are elected by the Council members of the Association. This election process is thus the same.
- 4. The Academy, with around 7,400 Fellows, embraces 15 specialty colleges. The number of Fellows in each College varies from over 1,600 to less than 200. A general election from all Fellows for representation at Medical Council would be perceived as disadvantageous towards candidates from Colleges with less Fellows. Contrarily, all Colleges are equally represented at the Academy Council giving a fair chance to all eligible candidates irrespective of their background.

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- 5. To the Academy, we see no problem with the representatives nominated by the Academy being appointed by the Chief Executive. We strongly believe the representatives nominated by the Academy, to be appointed, are all professionally independent and would represent the interest of the specialists as well as patients.
- 6. The appointment of suitable persons to the Medical Council is essential. Experienced academics, and specialists with the proper experience and who are of high regard, are required in the membership of the Medical Council to ensure the proper execution of duty. The Medical Council requires representation from the Academy which is the statutory body of the HKSAR Government empowered to set standards and assure quality and safe practice of specialist medical practitioners.

We shall be pleased to meet with the Bills Committee to elaborate and clarify the points we have made, if necessary.

Yours sincerely,

President

C:\govt\MCHK Reform\MRO Amendment Bill 2016 submission 8.4.2016 (final)