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THE HONG KONG COLLEGE
OF PATHOLOGISTS
A Constituent College of the
Hong Kong Academy of Medicin

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Auditor CCP C.P.A. Limited The Honorable Mr CHAN Han Pan Chairman of the Bills Committee on Private Healthcare Facilities Bill Email: bc 58 16@legco.gov.hk

Dear Honorable Mr Chan,

We noticed that the Legislative Council is currently discussing the Private Medical Facilities Bill in Hong Kong to regulate the private healthcare industry. The Bill aims to better protect patients' safety and consumer rights, and sets out the requirements, authorities and responsibilities of the licensee and chief medical executive in managing a licensed private healthcare facility. We are deeply disappointed that the Bill does not cover medical laboratories. The existing legislation (Cap. 359A) is of indirect relevance and only targets personnel performing medical laboratory testing. We believe this is suboptimal, outdated and insufficient in protecting the standard of healthcare.

One of the missions of The Hong Kong College of Pathologists is to promote high quality medical laboratory testing in Hong Kong. We believe the Private Healthcare Facilities Bill needs to be enhanced in terms of including mandatory registration and regulation of medical laboratories.

Medical laboratory test results significantly affect patient management. Whether it is a blood test, a microbiology test or a tissue biopsy, accurate laboratory results are one of the most important factors in assuring proper patient management and safety. We strongly believe that all medical laboratories should be registered and regulated, with the approach and procedures similar to other institutions included in the Private Medical Facilities Bill.

We sincerely appeal to the Committee to consider our suggestions, so as to establish an effective regulatory regime and safeguard the quality and safety of medical care in Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Michael WONG

Registrar

The Hong Kong College of Pathologists

c.c. The Honorable Dr Pierre Chan