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24 June 2021

The Hon Elizabeth Pui-fan Quat, BBS, JP  
Chairman

Bills Committee on Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms. Quat,

**Views on Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021**

The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (the "Academy") noted that the Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021 (the "Amendment Bill") has been introduced into the Legislative Council on 2 June 2021. On behalf of the Academy Council with representatives from the 15 constituent Colleges, I am writing to reiterate the following views of our Council for consideration by the Bills Committee.

In principle, the Academy supports any appropriate measures to optimise the supply of doctors in Hong Kong, with the prerequisites that standards of medical practitioners would not be compromised, local medical graduates be given fair considerations, and professional autonomy be safeguarded.

Possessing a specialist qualification is one of the main criteria for non-locally trained doctors to obtain Full Registration via the Special Registration under the new pathway proposed in the Amendment Bill. Being the only statutory body responsible for the training and accreditation of medical and dental specialists in Hong Kong, the Academy strongly believes that the prevailing mechanisms implemented by the Academy and its Colleges in regard to the vetting of foreign qualifications should remain undisturbed and be applied to such practitioners to safeguard standards.

The Amendment Bill proposes that the employing healthcare institutions would assess the medical practitioners as to whether they have served satisfactorily and competently during a 5-year period of employment after obtaining Special Registration and achieving Specialist status. The Academy considers it crucial that a robust mechanism be put in place to ensure that the nature and scope of

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work during the said employment would be conducive to locally relevant training under a scheme of supervised clinical practice in line with the spirit of the proposed legislation. In addition, the Academy feels strongly that there should be an objective, impartial and transparent assessment of each medical practitioner's performance. This is particularly important where conflict of interest, be it real or perceived, may arise when the employing healthcare institutions are directly and solely responsible for the assessment, whereas active participation from an independent professional body like the Academy through its Colleges would serve to enhance the objectivity, fairness and creditability of the assessment process. The same goes for processing applications for Special Registration at the entry point of the proposed pathway - an independent, professional body such as the Academy ought to be directly involved in devising the relevant mechanism as well as in its execution. Furthermore, an appeal mechanism with respect to any relevant decisions should be made available to all parties concerned as a matter of principle.

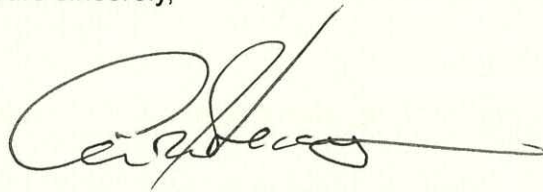
The interest of local medical graduates should be afforded adequate considerations. They must be given fair opportunities in receiving specialist training in the public sector necessary for career development. The proposed new scheme should also target specialties in imminent needs for manpower supply and be reviewed periodically in light of the contemporaneous manpower situation. In addition, the Academy holds the unwavering view that admission of non-locally trained doctors to Hong Kong is only one of the measures to address the overall manpower issue of the medical and healthcare sector. Holistic and strategic planning steered by the Government with additional and dedicated resources are urgently required.

The Academy considers that the upholding of professional autonomy is of utmost importance and is pleased to learn that the proposed "Special Registration Committee" will be established under the Medical Council of Hong Kong. Notwithstanding, the powers, roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders, namely the Food and Health Bureau, the Special Registration Committee, the Medical Council of Hong Kong and the Academy should be more clearly articulated and delineated. Specifically, the Academy would like to seek clarification from the Administration on the conditions / criteria under which the Government may issue directives, and the nature of such directives, to the Special Registration Committee as mentioned under section 14F (4) of the Amendment Bill.

The Academy appeals to the Bills Committee to give due considerations to the above during the legislative process. As the Academy is a key stakeholder in this matter, the Academy Council anticipates and looks forward to working closely with the Government on details of implementation should the Amendment Bill be received favourably at the Legislative Council.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gilberto Ka-kit Leung', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Professor Gilberto Ka-kit Leung  
President  
Hong Kong Academy of Medicine