



THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG

Annual Report 2019

- ▶ Ensuring Justice
- ▶ Maintaining Professionalism
- ▶ Protecting the Public



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Preface

This annual report, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019, is the 25th report published by the Medical Council of Hong Kong (“the Council”). Through this publication, the Council aims to keep members of the medical profession as well as the public better informed of its functions and work during the year.

It should be noted that this report is intended for general information only. For details of the statutory functions of the Council, its committees and inquiry panels, readers should refer to the Medical Registration Ordinance, Cap. 161, Laws of Hong Kong, and its subsidiary legislation.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Medical Council of Hong Kong (“the Council”) is empowered under the Medical Registration Ordinance to handle registration and disciplinary regulation of medical practitioners in Hong Kong. To assist in carrying out these functions, the Council Secretariat, which is staffed by the Department of Health, provides executive and secretarial support to the Council. Apart from conducting policy and committee meetings, the Council had, with the support of the Secretariat, processed the following in 2019:
- (a) 558 applications to take various parts of the Licensing Examination, the passing of which shows the achievement of a standard acceptable for registration as a medical practitioner;
 - (b) 1 222 applications for registration (including 476 applications for full registration, 469 applications for provisional registration, 175 applications for limited registration, and 102 applications for temporary registration);
 - (c) 277 applications for specialist registration;
 - (d) 14 416 applications for renewal of annual practising / retention certificates; and
 - (e) 3 286 disciplinary complaints.
- 1.2 The year of 2019 was a very busy one for the Council. This is evident from the statistics in this report, in particular the significant increase in the number of complaints. The Council continued its efforts to improve the efficiency and enhance the flexibility of the complaint investigation and disciplinary inquiry mechanism by various new arrangements implemented upon the enactment of the Medical Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2018, which included expediting the handling of cases by the new Preliminary Investigation Committee (“PIC”), increasing the number of inquiry panels (“IPs”), expanding the pool of the lay assessors and medical assessors for sitting on the PICs and the IPs, and appointing one more Legal Adviser to serve on the IPs, etc.
- 1.3 The Council continued to defend itself in a number of judicial review / appeal cases. Although being challenged in such cases, the Council is committed to protecting the public, maintaining professionalism and ensuring justice in discharging its statutory functions.
- 1.4 In response to the recommendation on facilitating non-locally trained doctors to practise in Hong Kong as set out in the Report of the Strategic Review on Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development published by the Food and Health Bureau (“FHB”), the Council had, at the invitation of FHB, discussed about uplifting the requirements on the period of assessment for non-locally trained doctors after passing the Licensing Examination of the Council. After thorough discussion, the Council decided that the period of assessment for a non-locally trained doctor passing the Licensing Examination could be reduced to 1 to 3 days if he or she has a specialist qualification and has completed a period of full-time employment for 3 years or more as a medical practitioner with any of the institutions designated under Promulgation No. 2 of the Council on limited registration. The new arrangement applies to those who fulfil the above conditions and commence the period of assessment on or after 26 August 2019.

2. Membership of the Medical Council and Election held in 2019

2.1 The Council comprises 24 medical members and 8 lay members. The composition of the Council is as follows:

- (a) 2 registered medical practitioners nominated respectively by –
 - University of Hong Kong;
 - The Chinese University of Hong Kong;
 - Hong Kong Academy of Medicine;
- (b) the Director of Health, or his or her representative, as an ex officio member;
- (c) the Chief Executive of the Hospital Authority, or his or her representative, as an ex officio member;
- (d) 2 registered medical practitioners who are Fellows of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (“HKAM”) nominated and elected by HKAM;
- (e) 7 registered medical practitioners who are members of the Hong Kong Medical Association (“HKMA”) nominated and elected by HKMA;
- (f) 7 registered medical practitioners who are ordinarily resident in Hong Kong elected by all registered medical practitioners with full registration or limited registration;
- (g) 4 lay members appointed by the Chief Executive;
- (h) 3 lay members elected by patient organizations; and
- (i) 1 lay member nominated by the Consumer Council.

The Director of Health is the ex officio Registrar of Medical Practitioners.

2.2 The membership of the Council (as at 31 December 2019) was as follows:

Professor LAU Wan-yee, Joseph, SBS (Chairman)

Mrs BIRCH LEE Suk-yee, Sandra, GBS, JP

Dr CHAN Hon-yee, Constance, JP

Dr Hon Pierre CHAN

Mr CHAN Wing-kai

Dr CHENG Chi-man

Dr CHEUNG Chin-pang

Dr CHEUNG Hon-ming

Dr CHOI Kin, Gabriel

Dr CHOW Yu-fat

Professor FOK Tai-fai, SBS, JP

Dr HO Hung-kwong, Duncan
Dr HO Pak-leung, JP
Ms HUI Mei-sheung, Tennessy, MH, JP
Mr HUNG Hin-ching, Joseph
Dr IP Wing-yuk
Mr KWONG Cho-shing, Antonio, MH
Mr LAM Chi-yau
Dr LAM Tzit-yuen, David
Dr LAU Chor-chiu, GMSM, MH, JP
Dr LEE Wai-hung, Danny
Dr LEUNG Chi-chiu
Professor Felice LIEH-MAK, GBS, CBE, JP
Dr LO Chi-yuen, Albert
Dr LUNG David Christopher (from 24 January 2019 onwards)
Mr MUI Cheuk-nang, Kenny
Dr PONG Chiu-fai, Jeffrey
Dr SHEA Tat-ming, Paul
Professor TANG Wai-king, Grace, SBS, JP
Dr WAI Yuk-chun, Veronica
Professor WONG Yung-hou, MH
Dr YEUNG Hip-wo, Victor (from 24 January 2019 onwards)

The Council's Legal Advisers are Mr NG Cheuk-kwan, Stanley and Mr SHUM Ping-sang, Edward and its Secretary is Miss Suzanne WONG.

- 2.3 Dr IP Wing-yuk was re-elected and Dr YEUNG Hip-wo, Victor was elected by the HKMA as members of the Council for a period of 3 years with effect from 24 January 2019.
- 2.4 Dr Hon Pierre CHAN was re-elected and Dr LUNG David Christopher was elected as members of the Council for a period of 3 years with effect from 24 January 2019 in the 23rd election of medical members of the Council conducted on 18 December 2018.
- 2.5 The 24th election of the Council was conducted on 17 December 2019 to fill 2 vacancies for a period of 3 years with effect from 24 January 2020. The election exercise was carried out smoothly. Dr CHOI Kin, Gabriel and Dr HO Pak-leung, JP, with the highest number of votes, were declared to be re-elected.

3. The Preliminary Investigation Committees and Disciplinary Proceedings

- 3.1 The Council's jurisdiction over the professional conduct of registered medical practitioners is laid down in the Medical Registration Ordinance ("MRO") and the Medical Practitioners (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulation ("the Regulation").
- 3.2 Disciplinary proceedings may be instituted for situations where a registered medical practitioner has been convicted in Hong Kong or elsewhere of any offence punishable with imprisonment or where there is evidence that a registered medical practitioner has been guilty of misconduct in a professional respect.
- 3.3 For the purpose of providing general guidance to registered medical practitioners as to what may commonly constitute professional misconduct, the Council has published a Code of Professional Conduct ("the Code") (revised in January 2016), and each registered medical practitioner has been given a personal copy of the Code. The Code can also be downloaded from the Council's website.
- 3.4 Complaints against registered medical practitioners touching on matters of professional misconduct are normally either lodged with the Council by individuals or referred to the Council by other bodies such as the Hong Kong Police Force, the Department of Health and the press. In accordance with the established procedures, complaints will be processed through part or all of the following 3 stages:
 - (a) Initial consideration by the Chairman and/or the Deputy Chairman of a Preliminary Investigation Committee ("PIC") to determine whether a complaint should be deliberated at PIC meetings or be referred to the Health Committee ("HC") for consideration. For those complaints which are considered groundless or frivolous and thus cannot or should not proceed further, the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman will consult a lay member of the PIC before a decision is made to dismiss the complaints;
 - (b) Examination at PIC meetings of the complaint as well as explanation of the medical practitioner(s) concerned, and the forming of a decision on whether or not there is a prima facie case to refer the complaint to an inquiry panel ("IP") of the Council for holding an inquiry; and
 - (c) Inquiry by an IP to hear the evidence from both the complainant and the defending registered medical practitioner(s).

3.5 Established under section 20S(1) of the pre-amended MRO, the deemed PIC comprises 7 members, including 6 registered medical practitioners and 1 lay member of the Council. The Chairman of the deemed PIC is assisted by the Deputy Chairman, both of them being elected by the Council from among its members. The membership of the deemed PIC (as at 31 December 2019) was as follows:

Professor FOK Tai-fai, SBS, JP (Chairman)

Dr IP Wing-yuk (Deputy Chairman) (from 13 February 2019 onwards)

Dr CHONG Yee-hung

Dr FAN Yuen-man, Cecilia, JP (from 5 July 2019 onwards)

Dr FOO Kam-so, Stephen

Dr SO Yui-chi

Mrs BIRCH LEE Suk-yea, Sandra, GBS, JP (from 7 February 2019 onwards)*

Ms HUI Mei-sheung, Tennessy, MH, JP *

Mr HUNG Hin-ching, Joseph *

Mr KWONG Cho-shing, Antonio, MH *

* serving on a rotational basis, each for a period of 3 months

3.6 Established under sections 20S(1) and 20S(1A) of the MRO, the new PIC comprises 7 members, including 4 registered medical practitioners and 3 lay persons. The membership of the new PIC (as at 31 December 2019) was as follows:

Dr CHENG Chi-man (Chairman)

Dr CHAN Nim-tak, Douglas (Deputy Chairman)


Dr CHIU Shing-ping, James

Dr LEE Wai-hung, Danny

Ms NG Ka-man, Rendy


Mr WONG Hin-wing

Professor WONG Yung-hou, MH

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- 3.7 Both PICs are tasked to perform the following functions:
- (a) to make preliminary investigations into complaints or information touching any matter that may be inquired into by an IP or heard by the HC and to give advice on the matter to any registered medical practitioner;
 - (b) to refer a case to an IP for holding an inquiry under section 21 of the MRO;
 - (c) to make recommendations to the HC for conducting a hearing; and
 - (d) to make preliminary investigations upon a referral by the Education and Accreditation Committee.
- 3.8 Section 9 of the Regulation states that unless a complaint case is found to be frivolous or groundless and should not proceed further or is referred to the HC for a hearing, it is mandatory for the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman of the PIC to direct that the case be referred to the PIC for its consideration (i.e. stage (b) stated in paragraph 3.4 above).
- 3.9 In the past, when a complaint case proceeded into the PIC stage, the doctor under complaint would be notified of the receipt of the complaint by way of a PIC Notice. He/she would be invited to make representation, if any, to the particulars of complaint stated in the PIC Notice before the PIC met to discuss the case concerned. Following the comments of the judge in *Law Yiu Wai Ray v Medical Council of Hong Kong* (HCAL 46/2015), refined measures have been adopted since 2016 with regard to the processing of complaint cases at the PIC stage.
- 3.10 Specifically, the doctor under complaint will be notified of the receipt of the complaint by the PIC and be provided with a copy of such complaint. The doctor will also be informed that the PIC will meet for the first time to consider the complaint. However, he/she is not required to give any explanation at this stage. At its first meeting to consider a complaint case, the PIC may either dismiss the complaint case or decide to seek explanation / clarification from the doctor under complaint to facilitate its making of a decision¹ on the complaint case. In the latter scenario, the PIC will inform the doctor of the allegations or disciplinary charges against him/her (if any) and invite him/her to provide a written explanation in response. The above refined measures aim at expediting the process of handling complaint cases by streamlining the procedures so involved and keeping it in compliance with the law. It is hoped that the refined measures will assure and promote the professional competency of doctors in Hong Kong and uphold the principle of professional self-regulation.

1 The duty of the PIC is to decide only whether a complaint case should be referred to an IP for inquiry. It is not empowered to pass judgment or sentence.

- 3.11 In 2019, the Council received a total of 3 286 complaints. **Table 1** shows the nature of complaints. Comparative figures for the years 2015 to 2019 are shown in the same table. As reflected in the figures, the number of complaints received by the Council had drastically increased in the latter half of 2019. The number of complaints in three categories “Other minor issues unrelated to professional responsibility”, “Issuing misleading / false medical certificates” and “Disregard of professional responsibility to patients”, totalling 3 106, accounted for nearly 95% of the total complaints received.
- 3.12 Among the 3 286 cases received in 2019, 4 cases could not be pursued further because the complainants were anonymous without providing any contact method, had withdrawn the complaints, or failed to provide further information or statutory declaration. A total of 160 cases were referred to the new PIC for consideration, out of which 4 were dismissed, 15 were subsequently recommended to the Council for no inquiry, 3 were referred to disciplinary inquiry by an IP or pre-registration inquiry by the Council, and for the rest 138 cases, the PIC had yet to reach decision as further information from the parties concerned (e.g. complainants, doctors or experts) was required. 2 cases were held in abeyance. The remaining 3 120 cases were being considered by the Chairman and/or the Deputy Chairman of the new PIC in consultation with a lay member.
- 3.13 **Table 2** shows the decisions of the PICs on the cases considered. In 2019, a total of 473 cases, received in 2019 or before, were considered by the PICs. Among the 473 cases, 224 and 249 cases were considered by the deemed PIC and the new PIC respectively.
- 3.14 **Tables 3a and 3b** provide a closer look into the PICs’ work in 2019 regarding cases to which the PICs had made final decisions. For the deemed PIC, decisions were made to 224 cases at its monthly meetings. Of these 224 cases, 170 were dismissed, 26 were referred to an IP or the Council for disciplinary inquiry / restoration inquiry and 28 were recommended to the Council for no disciplinary inquiry. As regards the new PIC, decisions were made to 249 cases at its monthly meetings. Among these 249 cases, 211 were dismissed, 2 were recommended to the HC for hearing, 13 were referred to an IP or the Council for disciplinary / pre-registration inquiry and 23 were recommended to the Council for no disciplinary / pre-registration inquiry.



3.15 The majority of complaints did not reach the inquiry stage because there was insufficient evidence to show a reasonable prospect for the doctors under complaint to be found guilty of misconduct in a professional respect. Some others could not be pursued further due to a lack of supporting evidence, withdrawal of complaints by the complainants or the complainants being unwilling to testify. There were also some complaints which in fact touched on civil claims of professional negligence or compensation. These cases should be dealt with in civil proceedings and the complainants were so advised accordingly. As a considerable number of the complaints were related to doctors' communication skills and attitude falling short of the expectation of the patients, a practice of informing the doctors concerned of the dismissed complaints for their attention and improvement had been adopted in the PIC stage since December 2012.

3.16 In addition to the setting up of the new PIC in 2018 and forming more IPs since then, the Council had expanded the pool of lay assessors and medical assessors in order to improve the complaint investigation and disciplinary inquiry mechanism.

3.17 An IP consists of:

- (a) 3 registered medical practitioners each of whom is (i) a member of the Council; or (ii) a medical assessor; and
- (b) 2 lay persons each of whom is (i) a lay member of the Council; or (ii) a lay assessor.

Lay assessors and medical assessors are appointed by the Council under sections 20BB and 20BC of the MRO respectively. The lists of lay assessors and medical assessors (as at 31 December 2019) were as follows:

Lay assessors

Mr CHAN Hiu-fung, Nicholas, MH

Ms CHUI Hoi-yee, Heidi

Mr HUI Cheuk-lun, Lawrence

Mr KAN Pak-him, Christopher

Mr LAI Yat-hin, Adrian

Ms NG Ka-man, Rendy

Mr NG Ting-shan

Mr POON Yiu-kin, Samuel

Mr WONG Hin-wing

Mr WOO King-hang

Medical assessors

Dr AU-YEUNG Kam-chuen, Sidney

Dr CHAN Nim-tak, Douglas

Professor CHAN Anthony Tak-cheung

Dr CHIU Shing-ping, James

Professor CHU Kent-man

Dr FUNG Ho-wang

Dr FUNG Tak-kwan, James (from 13 February 2019 onwards)

Dr LI Mun-pik, Teresa

Dr MAK Siu-king (from 13 February 2019 onwards)

Dr MOK Pik-tim, Francis

Professor TAN Choon-beng, Kathryn


Professor WONG Wing-kin, Gary

Dr WONG Yee-him, John

Dr YAM Kwong-yui

Dr YEUNG Chiu-fat, Henry

- 3.18 Most of the defendant doctors are legally represented. The Secretary of the Council, who is represented by a Government Counsel of the Department of Justice, is responsible for presenting evidence to substantiate the disciplinary charges. The complainant seldom needs to engage his/her own lawyer to present the case in a disciplinary inquiry.
- 3.19 To deal with any legal issues raised at disciplinary inquiries, an IP is assisted throughout the hearing by one of the two Legal Advisers of the Council.
- 3.20 In the case *Medical Council of Hong Kong v Helen Chan* (FACV 13/2009), the Court of Final Appeal in May 2010 held that the Legal Adviser's (i) presence at the Council's private deliberations and (ii) drafting of the Council's decisions in disciplinary inquiries not only are lawful, but also contribute to safeguarding the defendant's constitutional right to hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal. In view of the Court of Final Appeal's decision, the Council decided in June 2010 to resume the former practice of inviting the Legal Adviser (i) to be present during the Council's deliberations in disciplinary inquiries and (ii) to draft the Council's judgments on the basis of the Council's decisions, findings and reasoning.

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- 3.21 The Legal Adviser does not take part in the IP's deliberations or decision making. He only gives legal advice to the IP and informs the parties of any legal advice given during the IP's private deliberations. He will also draft the judgment on the basis of the IP's decisions, findings and reasoning. The IP will thoroughly scrutinize the draft and modify it where necessary in order to ensure that the judgment says what the IP means.
- 3.22 It should also be stressed that, before any registered medical practitioner is found guilty of any disciplinary offence, the offence has to be proved to the required standard by the evidence put before the IP. The standard of proof which applies in each case has to be commensurate with the gravity of the offence charged.
- 3.23 If a registered medical practitioner is found guilty of a disciplinary offence after an inquiry, he/she will face one or more of the following disciplinary sanctions:
- removal from the General or Specialist Register;
 - removal from the General or Specialist Register for such period as the IP may think fit;
 - reprimand;
 - suspended application of any of the above for a period not exceeding 3 years, subject to any conditions the IP may think fit; or
 - warning letter.
- 3.24 **Table 4** shows the number of disciplinary inquiries conducted in 2019. A total of 41 cases (including 3 cases to be carried forward to 2020) were heard in the year of 2019. In 34 of the 38 completed cases (89.5%), the registered medical practitioners concerned were found guilty. The more prominent cases were related to the registered medical practitioners' disregard of professional responsibilities to patients.
- 3.25 A registered medical practitioner aggrieved by the disciplinary order of the IP has a right in law to appeal to the Court of Appeal. **Table 5** shows the number of appeals against the disciplinary orders in the years from 2015 to 2019. 2 appeals had been carried forward to 2019 from previous years, of which 1 was dismissed while the other was allowed by the Court of Appeal.

4. *The Licentiate Committee and the Licensing Examination of Medical Council*

- 4.1 The Licentiate Committee (“LC”) established by the Council is responsible for administering and running the Licensing Examination for non-local medical graduates.
- 4.2 The Licensing Examination was introduced to replace the Licentiate Scheme with effect from 1 September 1996. Upon passing the examination and completion of the period of assessment, a person will be qualified for full registration as a registered medical practitioner.
- 4.3 The Licensing Examination is held twice annually starting from 2014 and it consists of 3 parts:

Part I

Examination in Professional Knowledge — consisting of 2 multiple-choice question papers, set in both Chinese and English, on professional subjects including medicine, surgery, orthopaedic surgery, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, psychiatry, medical ethics / community medicine and basic sciences.

Part II

Proficiency Test in Medical English — a written professional English paper to test candidates’ proficiency in medical English.

Part III

Clinical Examination — an examination to test candidates’ ability to apply professional knowledge to solve clinical problems, in which candidates will be examined in medicine, surgery (including cases on orthopaedic surgery), obstetrics and gynaecology, and paediatrics. Candidates may answer in English, Cantonese or Putonghua.

- 4.4 Candidates who have passed all 3 parts of the Licensing Examination will normally be required to undergo a 12-month period of assessment in hospitals accredited by the Committee on Internship of the Hospital Authority. During this period, an intern will work under supervision in the following disciplines:

- Medicine
- Surgery
- Orthopaedics and Traumatology
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Paediatrics
- Oncology / Psychiatry / Intensive Care
- Neurosurgery / Otorhinolaryngology / Ophthalmology
- Emergency Medicine / Family Medicine



4.5 The membership of the LC (as at 31 December 2019) was as follows:

Dr CHEUNG Hon-ming (Chairman)

Dr CHAN Kit-sheung

Dr KONG Wing-ming

Dr LAM Wing-wo

Professor LAU Yu-lung

Professor LEUNG Wai-keung

Dr LI Mun-pik, Teresa (from 2 September 2019 onwards)

Professor NG Kwok-wai, Enders

Professor SZETO Cheuk-chun

Dr YEUNG Tai-kong, Deacons (from 7 August 2019 onwards)

4.6 To discharge the respective functions of the LC, a total of 5 Sub-Committees have been set up:

(a) Examination Sub-Committee

- responsible for conducting the Licensing Examination and certifying passes and failures in the examination
- the membership (as at 31 December 2019) was as follows:

Professor SZETO Cheuk-chun (Chairman)

Dr CHAN Kar-loen, Karen

Professor CHEUNG Yiu-fai

Professor HUNG Ivan Fan-ngai

Professor KHOO Ui-soon

Professor LANG Hung-hin, Brian

Professor LEUNG Frankie Ka-li

Professor LEUNG Tak-yeung

Professor LI Albert Martin

Dr LI Mun-pik, Teresa (from 2 September 2019 onwards)

Professor LUK On-yan, Andrea

Professor NG Kwok-wai, Enders

Professor TSE Man-kit, Gary

Professor YUNG Shu-hang, Patrick, JP

(b) Internship Sub-Committee

- responsible for the assessment and supervision of interns during the period of assessment
- the membership (as at 31 December 2019) was as follows:

Professor LAU Yu-lung (Chairman)

Professor CHAN Chi-fung, Godfrey

Dr CHAN Siu-mui, Tina

Professor CHIM Chor-sang, James

Professor HUI Shu-cheong, David, BBS

Professor KUMTA Shekhar Madhukar

Professor LAI Bo-san, Paul

Professor LANG Hung-hin, Brian

Professor LEUNG Tak-yeung

Professor LEUNG Ting-fan

Professor NG Hung-yu, Ernest

Professor NG Kwok-wai, Enders

Dr WONG Ming-yan, Sharon

Dr WONG Tin-chun, Gordon

Dr YAU Wai-pan

(c) Credentials Sub-Committee

- responsible for considering and determining the eligibility of the applicants for sitting the Licensing Examination
- the membership (as at 31 December 2019) was as follows:

Professor LEUNG Wai-keung (Chairman)

Professor CHAN Lik-yuen, Henry

Dr CHIANG Kwok-shing, Alan

Dr CHUNG Wai-hung, Thomas

Professor LAM Chiu-wa, Linda

Dr LAM Ming

Professor LEUNG Gilberto Ka-kit

Dr NG Chi-ho (from 1 January 2019 onwards)

Dr ZHU Xian-lun (from 1 January 2019 onwards)

(d) Exemptions Sub-Committee

- responsible for considering and determining applications for exemption from various parts of the Licensing Examination and part of the period of assessment
- the membership (as at 31 December 2019) was as follows:

Professor NG Kwok-wai, Enders (Chairman)

Dr CHAN Yiu-che

Dr CHOI Mei-yee, Sarah, JP

Dr LAM Ho (from 1 January 2019 onwards)

Professor LAU Yu-lung

Professor LEUNG Ting-fan

Professor LEUNG Wai-keung

Professor SZETO Cheuk-chun

Dr TSUI Sik-hon

(e) Review Sub-Committee

- responsible for considering and determining applications for review from candidates aggrieved by the decisions of other sub-committees regarding the examination and/or period of assessment
- the membership (as at 31 December 2019) was as follows:

Mr Erik SHUM (Chairman)

Dr CHENG Man-yung

Professor Leung Yu-hung, Anskar

Professor LI Albert Martin

Dr LI Mun-pik, Teresa

Dr NGUYEN Gia-hung, Desmond (from 5 August 2019 onwards)

4.7 Apart from the LC and its Sub-Committees which oversee the overall operation of the Licensing Examination, the administrative and operational work of the examination are also shouldered by The Chinese University of Hong Kong (“CUHK”) and the University of Hong Kong (“HKU”). CUHK and HKU assist in the planning, implementation and administration and final delivery of the Licensing Examination with the support of the Hospital Authority in providing examiners, patients, venues, facilities and logistics. They also provide chief examiners for all parts of the Licensing Examination and invite overseas / external examiners for the Clinical Examination to ensure the quality and standard of the examination. The overseas / external examiners appointed for the Clinical Examination of the Licensing Examination held in 2019 were as follows:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>First Sitting</u>	<u>Second Sitting</u>
Medicine	Professor Michael WOODWARD	Professor Michael POLKEY
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Dr Alison WRIGHT	Dr John LATIMER
Paediatrics	Professor LEE Yung Seng	Dr WONG Kin Sun
Surgery	Professor London Lucien OOI	Dr LEONG Heng Tat

4.8 Starting from 2014, the number of sittings of the Licensing Examination has been increased from 1 to 2 per annum. Details of the results of the Licensing Examination since 1996 are shown in [Table 6](#).

4.9 To attract more non-locally trained doctors to serve in Hong Kong, the Council has relaxed the requirements regarding the period of assessment. Applicants who have passed the Licensing Examination and have a specialist qualification may apply to the Council for exemption from assessment of the relevant specialty. Under this arrangement, the period of assessment can be shortened from 1 year to 6 months. In addition, starting from 26 August 2019, applicants who fulfil the abovementioned criteria and have completed a period of full-time employment for 3 years or more as a medical practitioner with any of the institutions designated under Promulgation No. 2 of limited registration may apply for reducing the period of assessment generally to 1 to 3 days.

5. The Education and Accreditation Committee

5.1 The Education and Accreditation Committee (“EAC”) established by the Council has the following functions:

- (a) to determine, upon the recommendation of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (“HKAM”), the specialties under which names of registered medical practitioners may be included in the Specialist Register;
- (b) to recommend to the Council, on the recommendation of the HKAM, the qualification, experience and any other attributes that qualify a registered medical practitioner to have his or her name included in the Specialist Register under a particular specialty;
- (c) to recommend to the Council the procedures, documentations and fees payable for including the name of a registered medical practitioner in the Specialist Register;
- (d) to recommend and review the standard and structure of undergraduate medical education and medical training required for a person to become a registered medical practitioner;
- (e) to recommend to the Council whether the name of a registered medical practitioner should be included in or removed from the Specialist Register; and
- (f) to make recommendations to an inquiry panel on a referral under section 20Y(a) of the Medical Registration Ordinance (“MRO”).

5.2 The membership of the EAC (as at 31 December 2019) was as follows:

Professor TANG Wai-king, Grace, SBS, JP (Chairman)

Professor CHAN Anthony Tak-cheung

Dr CHOW Yu-fat

Professor HUNG Chi-tim, JP

Professor HUNG Ivan Fan-ngai

Dr LAM Nai-man (from 5 October 2019 onwards)

Dr LAU Chor-chiu, GMSM, MH, JP

Professor LEUNG Gilberto Ka-kit

Dr LUK Hung-to, Danny

Dr PONG Chiu-fai, Jeffrey

Dr TONG Kai-sing

Professor WING Yun-kwok

Dr WONG Tin-chun, Gordon

Dr YEUNG Hip-wo, Victor (from 6 March 2019 onwards)

- 5.3 The Specialist Register was established in 1998 to provide for specialist registration of registered medical practitioners qualified in various specialties. There were 61 specialties as at 31 December 2019. On the recommendation of the EAC, the Council approved 277 applications of registered medical practitioners for inclusion of their names in the Specialist Register in 2019.
- 5.4 The Council strives to encourage registered medical practitioners to undergo continuing medical education (“CME”) to keep themselves up-to-date on current developments in medical practice, so as to maintain a high professional standard and to protect the public. While it is a statutory requirement for specialists to undergo such CME relevant to their specialties as determined by the HKAM, the Council has implemented the voluntary “CME Programme for Practising Doctors who are not taking CME Programme for Specialists” (“the Programme”) since 1 October 2001. As at 31 December 2019, there were over 2 600 medical practitioners whose names were not included in the Specialist Register participating in the Programme.
- 5.5 Under the Programme, participating medical practitioners who have accumulated 30 or more CME points in a year within the 3-year CME cycle will be awarded a CME certificate to certify that they have achieved a satisfactory level of CME activity during that particular period. The CME certificate can be displayed inside the medical practitioner’s clinic. Since the implementation of the Programme and up to 31 December 2019, the Council had, on the recommendation of the EAC, issued 25 969 CME certificates to the participating medical practitioners.
- 5.6 Besides, participating medical practitioners who have acquired 90 or more CME points in a CME cycle will be given approval to use the title “CME-Certified” on their visiting cards during the immediately following CME cycle. As at 31 December 2019, there were 1 070 medical practitioners holding valid “CME-Certified” title.
- 5.7 In 2019, the EAC conducted its 6th triennial review of the Programme for the purpose of assessing the suitability of the Programme Providers, Administrators and Accreditors for re-appointment. On the recommendation of the EAC, the Council re-appointed the following organisations for another term of 3 years with effect from 1 January 2020:



CME Programme Providers

- (i) Association of Licentiates of the Medical Council of Hong Kong;
- (ii) Department of Health (“DH”);
- (iii) Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (“HKAM”);
- (iv) Hong Kong Doctors Union (“HKDU”);
- (v) Hong Kong Medical Association (“HKMA”);
- (vi) Hospital Authority (“HA”);
- (vii) The Chinese University of Hong Kong (“CUHK”); and
- (viii) University of Hong Kong (“HKU”)

CME Programme Administrators

- (i) DH;
- (ii) HKAM;
- (iii) HKDU; and
- (iv) HKMA

CME Programme Accreditors

- (i) HKAM;
- (ii) HKDU; and
- (iii) HKMA

- 5.8 The Council will keep the Programme under constant review and will liaise closely with the CME Programme Providers for providing more CME activities and for facilitating participation in the activities.
- 5.9 The EAC is also responsible for scrutinizing applications for quotability of qualifications and recommending to the Council whether a particular qualification may be quoted on signboards, letterheads and visiting cards, etc. In 2019, the Council considered the recommendations of the EAC on a total of 14 qualifications. Of these 14 qualifications, 9 were regarded as having fulfilled the prevailing guidelines and were included in the “List of Quotable Qualifications” with the endorsement of the Council.

- 5.10 The “Rules on Quotable Appointments” (“QA Rules”) and the “Guidelines on Quotability of Appointments by Private Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Maternity Homes and Medical Clinics” were implemented by the Council with effect from 1 December 2014. Under the QA Rules, appointments made by the HA, CUHK, HKU and DH are quotable by registered medical practitioners in their medical practice. As for a private hospital, nursing home, maternity home or medical clinic, it has to satisfy the Council that it has an established and objective system of offering appointments which is acceptable to the Council before its appointments are quotable. The names of the 14 institutions with their appointment systems accepted by the Council and their approved quotable appointments are included in the “List of Quotable Appointments by Private Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Maternity Homes and Medical Clinics accepted under the Rules on Quotable Appointments” published on the Council’s website.
- 5.11 In early 2019, the Accreditation Team appointed by the Council to conduct the 5th 5-yearly “Accreditation Exercise of the Medical Education and Training of The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong” submitted a report to the EAC on its findings and recommendations on the medical education and training after its visits to the 2 universities in late October / early November 2018. The Council, on the recommendation of the EAC, accepted the requirements and the recommendations of the Accreditation Team set out in the report, and invited the 2 universities to address and take follow up actions in respect of the requirements.

6. *The Ethics Committee and the Code of Professional Conduct*

6.1 The Ethics Committee (“EC”) established by the Council has the following functions:

- (a) to study and review any case relating to medical ethics or professional conduct, either on its own motion or at the request in writing of not less than 20 registered medical practitioners;
- (b) to advise and make recommendations to the Council on matters about medical ethics and professional conduct generally; and
- (c) to make recommendations to an inquiry panel on a referral under section 20Y(a) of the Medical Registration Ordinance.

6.2 The membership of the EC (as at 31 December 2019) was as follows:

Dr LEUNG Chi-chiu (Chairman)

Dr CHAN Hau-ngai, Kingsley

Dr Hon Pierre CHAN

Dr HO Hok-kung (from 1 December 2019 onwards)

Dr HO Pak-leung, JP

Mr KWONG Cho-sing, Antonio, MH

Dr LAM Tzit-yuen, David

Mr MA Siu-leung, BBS, MH (from 12 February 2019 onwards)

Dr TSE Chun-yau, MH (from 7 April 2019 onwards)

Dr WAI Yuk-chun, Veronica

Dr WONG Grace Josephine Wing-san

Professor WONG Yung-hou, MH

6.3 Noting that telemedicine has become a more common practice of the profession, a dedicated Task Force set up by the Council discussed about the ethical principles involved and drew up, with reference to the comments of the EC, a set of “Ethical Guidelines on Practice of Telemedicine” for guidance of medical practitioners. With the endorsement by the Council, the said guidelines were promulgated to members of the profession vide the 26th issue of the Council’s newsletter of December 2019.

6.4 The Council, on the recommendation of the EC, renewed its approval for the Department of Health, the Hong Kong Medical Association and the Hong Kong Doctors Union to continue to publish their doctors directories.

6.5 The EC was reviewing other sections of the Code with a view to providing clearer guidelines to medical practitioners, and would make recommendations to the Council for consideration where appropriate.

7. The Health Committee

7.1 The Health Committee (“HC”) established by the Council deals with the health aspect of medical practitioners whose fitness to practise medicine is called into question. It acts in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Medical Practitioners (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulation.

7.2 The functions of the HC are as follows:

- (a) to conduct a hearing into any case or matter concerning the health or physical or mental fitness to practise of any registered medical practitioner, whether or not the case or matter has been investigated by a Preliminary Investigation Committee or inquired into by an inquiry panel;
- (b) to conduct a hearing into cases referred to it by an inquiry panel under section 20Y(a) or 21(1)(ivb) of the Medical Registration Ordinance;
- (c) to make a recommendation to the Council, after due hearing conducted under paragraph (a) or (b) above, that the name of a registered medical practitioner be removed from the General Register permanently or for any period not exceeding 12 months, and that such an order for removal be suspended subject to such conditions as recommended by the HC, where appropriate; and
- (d) to recommend the extension, not exceeding 12 months, of a period of temporary removal of name recommended under paragraph (c) above.

7.3 The membership of the HC (as at 31 December 2019) was as follows:

Dr SHEA Tat-ming, Paul (Chairman) (from 2 February 2019 onwards)

Dr CHAN Siu-kim

Dr CHEUNG Chin-pang (from 6 March 2019 onwards)

Dr CHOW Chun-kwan, John

Dr HO Chung-ping, MH, JP

Dr HUNG Bing-kei, Gabriel

Mr HUNG Hin-ching, Joseph

Dr LEE Siu-yin, Ruby, JP (from 2 July 2019 onwards)

Dr LO Chi-yuen, Albert

Dr LO See-kit, Raymond

Dr WONG Ho-shan, Steven

Mr WOO King-hang (from 7 August 2019 onwards)

7.4 In April 2019, the HC held a hearing to consider a case relating to fitness to practise of a provisionally registered medical practitioner which was referred by the Council in November 2018. The provisionally registered medical practitioner concerned was subsequently found mentally fit to practise.

8. Registration of Medical Practitioners

- 8.1 As at 31 December 2019, there were 15 004 medical practitioners with full registration. This figure included those resident in Hong Kong and those on the non-resident list. **Table 7** shows that there had been an increase in the number of registered medical practitioners from 13 726 in 2015 to 15 004 in 2019 (9.3%). In addition to the 15 004 medical practitioners with full registration, there were 154 medical practitioners with limited registration, among whom 29 were permitted to work in the exempted clinics.
- 8.2 Keeping the entries in the General Register and the Specialist Register up-to-date has been a major task for the Council Secretariat. Hundreds of transactions are carried out weekly, including changes in registered address or personal particulars, removal from and restoration to the Registers, transfer to and from the resident and the non-resident lists respectively, issue of Certificates of Good Standing and Certificates Verifying Registration, etc.
- 8.3 **Table 8** sets out the number of registration cases in respect of various parts of the General Register, including “full”, “provisional”, “limited” and “temporary” registration as well as cases of restoration to the Register from 2010 to 2019.
- 8.4 A medical practitioner whose name has been removed from the General Register, whether as a consequence of disciplinary proceedings or otherwise, may apply to the Council for restoration of his/her name to the Register. The Council may hold an inquiry to decide whether to grant or refuse the application. As shown in **Table 8**, 9 such applications were approved in 2019.
- 8.5 Every year, the Council Secretariat has to conduct a large-scale exercise of renewal of practising and retention certificates for all registered medical practitioners. With the increase in the number of registered medical practitioners, the number of annual practising and retention certificates issued had also risen from 13 222 in 2015 to 14 416 in 2019, representing an increase of 9.0%.
- 8.6 As at 31 December 2019, there were 7 452 medical practitioners registered on the Specialist Register under 61 specialties. The number of medical practitioners registered under each specialty is set out in **Table 9**.

9. *Communication with Medical Practitioners and the Public*

9.1 In order to disseminate information to all medical practitioners, the Council would publish a newsletter on a regular basis. The composition of the editorial board is as follows:

Professor LAU Wan-yee, Joseph, SBS (Chairman)

Dr CHENG Chi-man

Dr CHEUNG Hon-ming

Professor FOK Tai-fai, SBS, JP

Dr LEUNG Chi-chiu

Dr SHEA Tat-ming, Paul

Professor TANG Wai-king, Grace, SBS, JP

Secretary of the Council

The 26th issue of the newsletter was published in December 2019.

9.2 The Council has launched its website (www.mchk.org.hk) on the Internet. The following information on the website is accessible to members of the public:

- (a) Medical Registration Ordinance;
- (b) Membership and functions of the Council and its committees;
- (c) Registration requirements and application forms for registration;
- (d) List of registered medical practitioners on the General Register and the Specialist Register;
- (e) List of doctors directories approved by the Council;
- (f) Licensing Examination;
- (g) Code of Professional Conduct;
- (h) Guidelines and information for medical practitioners;
- (i) Complaints and disciplinary inquiries;
- (j) Quotable qualifications;
- (k) Quotable appointments;
- (l) CME Programme for Practising Doctors who are not taking CME Programme for Specialists;
- (m) Elections of the Medical Council
- (n) Publications and press releases; and
- (o) Useful links.



10. Future Developments

10.1 With the growing complexity of complaints against registered medical practitioners, members of the public expect greater accountability and transparency in dealing with the complaints from the Council. Within the medical profession, there are also discussions on ethical issues and expression of concerns over the standard and quality of medical practice which require the Council's attention. The Council will continue to improve its services to meet the changing needs of both the members of the public and the profession. With the implementation of the various new arrangements by the Council upon the enactment of the Medical Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2018, the efficiency of the complaint investigation and disciplinary inquiry mechanism has been improved. The Council will review the arrangements from time to time for continuous enhancement.

TABLE 1

Complaints received by the Medical Council

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Complaints Received	493	628*	496	639*	3 286*
(A) Allegations by category					
1. Conviction in Court	31	53	57	55	47
(a) Failure to keep proper record of dangerous drugs	(3)	(3)	(2)	(2)	(0)
(b) Others	(28)	(50)	(55)	(53)	(47)
2. Disregard of professional responsibility to patients	289	330	321	446	438#
3. Issuing misleading / false medical certificates	24	24	36	29	748
4. Practice promotion	10	7	13	33	9
5. Misleading, unapproved description and announcement	9	150	9	6	6
6. Improper / indecent behaviour to patients	5	8	7	17	17
7. Abuse of professional position to further improper association with patients	2	2	–	–	–
8. Fitness to practise	–	3	–	–	–
9. Abuse of professional confidence	–	–	2	2	–
10. Depreciation of other medical practitioners	1	2	–	1	–
11. Sharing fee and improper financial transaction	–	–	2	3	5
12. Failure to maintain proper medical records	–	–	11	6	75
13. Mishandling of patient's personal data	–	–	3	1	19
14. Improper delegation of medical duties to unregistered persons	–	–	–	–	2
15. Other minor issues unrelated to professional responsibility	122	49	35	40	1 920

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
(B) Progress of complaints as at 31 December 2019					
1. Dismissed by the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the relevant Preliminary Investigation Committee (“PIC”) in consultation with a lay member as being frivolous or groundless	325	205	149	19	–
2. Could not be pursued further because the complainants failed to provide further information or statutory declaration or the complaints were anonymous or withdrawn, etc.	30	38	34	26	4
3. Under consideration by the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the relevant PIC in consultation with a lay member	–	6	51	151	3 120
4. Held in abeyance	1	4	1	–	2
5. Being considered at the PIC meetings	6	27	75	166	138
6. Dismissed by the relevant PIC	90	275	136	228	4
7. Referred to the Medical Council for no disciplinary inquiry	20	41	36	35	15
8. Referred to the Medical Council for no pre-registration inquiry	–	1	2	1	–
9. Referred to the Medical Council / inquiry panel for disciplinary inquiry	19	30	10	10	1
10. Referred to the Medical Council for restoration inquiry	1	–	1	–	–
11. Referred to the Medical Council for pre-registration inquiry	1	1	–	–	2
12. Referred to the Health Committee for hearing	–	–	1	3	–

Remarks:

* The net number of complaints received in 2016 was 493 as there were 136 complaints on the same incident against the same registered medical practitioner received in 2016. The net number of complaints received in 2018 was 506 as there were 74 complaints on the same incident against a registered medical practitioner and 61 complaints on another incident against 3 registered medical practitioners received in 2018 respectively. Among the 3 286 complaint cases received in 2019, 2 742 cases can be consolidated into 11 groups of same / very similar complaints against 11 doctors. As such, the net number of complaints received in 2019 was 555.

The breakdown of cases on “Disregard of professional responsibility to patients” in 2019 is as follows:

- (a) Inappropriate prescription of drugs – 149 cases
- (b) Failure / unsatisfactory result of treatment / surgery, failure to properly / timely diagnose illness and disagreement with doctor’s medical opinion – 117 cases
- (c) Conducting unnecessary or inappropriate treatment / surgery – 63 cases
- (d) Doctor’s unprofessional attitude / Doctor-patient communication – 50 cases
- (e) Failure to give proper medical advice / explanation – 22 cases
- (f) Other treatment-related issues – 37 cases

TABLE 2

Work of the PICs of the Medical Council

Nature	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
					Deemed PIC	New PIC
1. Total number of cases referred to the PIC meetings	129	154	368	242	224*	249*
2. Total number of cases referred to the Medical Council for no disciplinary inquiry / pre-registration inquiry after the PIC meetings	35	38	53	41	28 [#]	23 [#]
3. Total number of cases referred to the Medical Council / inquiry panel for disciplinary inquiry / restoration inquiry / pre-registration inquiry after the PIC meetings	57	57	38	39	26 [#]	13 [#]
4. Total number of cases referred to the Health Committee for hearing after the PIC meetings	1	-	1	1	-	2

Remarks:

* This figure included those cases received before 2019. Cases referred to and considered by the PICs in 2019 fell under the following categories:

	No. of Cases	
	Deemed PIC	New PIC
(a) Disregard of professional responsibility to patients	154	177
• <i>inappropriate prescription of drugs</i>	29	144
• <i>conducting unnecessary or inappropriate treatment / surgery</i>	74	13
• <i>failure to properly / timely diagnose illness</i>	24	3
• <i>doctor's unprofessional attitude / doctor-patient communication</i>	7	10
• <i>failure / unsatisfactory results of treatment / surgery</i>	14	1
• <i>failure to give proper medical advice / explanation</i>	2	3
• <i>disagreement with doctor's medical opinion</i>	-	2
• <i>other treatment-related issues</i>	4	1
(b) Conviction in court	31	31
(c) Practice promotion / Misleading, unapproved description and announcement	14	7
(d) Fee dispute	9	11
(e) Issuing misleading / false medical certificates	7	7
(f) Improper / indecent behaviour to patients	1	5
(g) Failure to maintain proper medical records	3	1
(h) Mishandling of patient's personal data	1	-
(i) Abuse of professional confidence	-	1
(j) Sharing fee and improper financial transaction	-	1
(k) Miscellaneous	4	8
Total:	224	249

Cases referred by the PICs to the Medical Council / inquiry panel in 2019 are classified as follows:

	No. of Cases	
	Deemed PIC	New PIC
(A) Recommended for no disciplinary inquiry		
Conviction in court	28	23
• <i>careless driving</i>	24	22
• <i>crossing continuous double white lines</i>	1	–
• <i>dangerous driving</i>	1	–
• <i>failing to file return for the importation of a motor vehicle</i>	1	–
• <i>licensee being liable for an offence committed in respect of an irradiating apparatus</i>	1	–
• <i>riding / possessing bicycle within country park or special area without consent of the Authority</i>	–	1
(B) Recommended for disciplinary inquiry		
(a) Conviction in court	3	6
• <i>committing an act outraging public decency</i>	–	1
• <i>dangerous drugs related conviction</i>	–	1
• <i>driving a motor vehicle with alcohol concentration in breath above the prescribed limit</i>	2	3
• <i>indecent assault</i>	–	1
• <i>operating a medical clinic in breach of a condition of the license issued by the Singapore Ministry of Health</i>	1	–
(b) Disregard of professional responsibility to patients	19	2
• <i>conducting unnecessary or inappropriate treatment / surgery</i>	4	–
• <i>failure to give proper medical advice / explanation</i>	–	1
• <i>failure to properly / timely diagnose illness</i>	5	–
• <i>failure / unsatisfactory results of treatment / surgery</i>	2	–
• <i>inappropriate prescription of drugs</i>	7	1
• <i>other treatment-related issues</i>	1	–
(c) Practice promotion / Misleading, unapproved description and announcement	4	1
(d) Issuing misleading / false medical certificates	–	1
(e) Improper / indecent behaviour to patients	–	1
(C) Recommended for pre-registration inquiry		
Found guilty of misconduct by local medical schools	–	2
Total:	54	36

TABLE 3a

Work statistics of the deemed PIC of the Medical Council in 2019

	Quarter				Total
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec	
No. of PIC Meetings	3	3	3	3	12
No. of cases considered	55	54	60	55	224
No. of cases dismissed (%)	38 (69.1%)	45 (83.3%)	49 (81.7%)	38 (69.1%)	170 (75.9%)
No. of cases referred to the Medical Council / inquiry panel (%)	17 (30.9%)	9 (16.7%)	11 (18.3%)	17 (30.9%)	54* (24.1%)
No. of cases referred to the Health Committee (%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

* Among the 54 cases, 28 cases were of minor offences and the Medical Council accepted the PIC's recommendation that no disciplinary inquiry was to be held (Please see details in Table 2).

TABLE 3b

Work statistics of the new PIC of the Medical Council in 2019

	Quarter				Total
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec	
No. of PIC Meetings	3	3	3	3	12
No. of cases considered	16	35	166	32	249
No. of cases dismissed (%)	16 (100%)	31 (88.6%)	149 (89.8%)	15 (46.9%)	211 (84.7%)
No. of cases referred to the Medical Council / inquiry panel (%)	0 (0%)	4 (11.4%)	15 (9.0%)	17 (53.1%)	36* (14.5%)
No. of cases referred to the Health Committee (%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (1.2%)	0 (0%)	2 (0.8%)

* Among the 36 cases, 23 cases were of minor offences and the Medical Council accepted the PIC's recommendation that no disciplinary inquiry was to be held (Please see details in Table 2).

TABLE 4

Disciplinary inquiries conducted in 2019

Nature	No. of cases involved	Decision
(A) Conviction in court		
(a) Driving a motor vehicle with alcohol concentration in breath above the prescribed limit and careless driving	(2)	Warning letter (gazetted)
(b) Driving while disqualified and using a vehicle without third party insurance	(1)	Removed for 1 month (suspended for 12 months)
(c) Failure to keep a register of dangerous drugs in the specified form	(3)	Removed for 1 month (suspended for 6 months)
	(1)	Removed for 1 month (suspended for 18 months)
	(1)	Removed for 1 month (suspended for 24 months)
	(3)	Removed for 2 months (suspended for 12 months)
(d) Indecent assault	(1)	Removed for 3 months
Sub-total:	12	
(B) Disregard of professional responsibility to patients	(1)	Warning letter (not gazetted)
	(2)	Warning letter (gazetted)
	(1)	Reprimanded
	(6)	Removed for 1 month (suspended for 12 months)
	(2)	Removed for 2 months (suspended for 12 months)
	(2)	Removed for 2 months (suspended for 18 months)
	(1)	Removed for 3 months (suspended for 24 months)
	(1)	Removed for 6 months (suspended for 36 months)
	(1)	Removed for 1 month
	(4)	Not guilty
	(3)	Disciplinary inquiries to continue in 2020
Sub-total:	24	

Nature	No. of cases involved	Decision
(C) Issue misleading / false medical certificates	(1)	Removed for 1 month (suspended for 24 months)
Sub-total:	1	
(D) Practice promotion / Quotable qualification	(2)	Removed for 1 month (suspended for 12 months)
	(1)	Removed for 3 months (suspended for 12 months)
	(1)	Removed for 3 months (suspended for 18 months)
Sub-total:	4	
Total:	41	

TABLE 5

Figures on appeal cases

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
No. of appeals lodged during the year	1	0	2	2	0
No. of appeal cases carried forward from previous years	4	0	0	2	2
Total no. of appeal cases in progress in the year:	5	0	2	4	2

Results of appeal cases concluded in 2019:

	No. of cases
(a) Dismissed by Court of Appeal	1
(b) Allowed by Court of Appeal	1
(c) Appeal withdrawn	0
Total:	2

TABLE 6

Results of the Licensing Examination

Year	Examination in Professional Knowledge			Proficiency Test in Medical English (March)			Proficiency Test in Medical English (September)			Clinical Examination			Completed Period of Assessment	
	Sat	Passed	%	Sat	Passed	%	Sat	Passed	%	Sat	Passed	%		
1996	154	11	7	-	-	-	140	88	63	40	12	30		
1997	178	13	7	15	12	80	90	48	53	27	9	33	11	
1998	165	43	26	7	7	100	51	43	84	49	17	35	6	
1999	165	20	12	5	4	80	57	39	68	49	9	18	16	
2000	132	13	10	1	0	0	48	28	58	42	10	24	10	
2001	124	13	10	*	-	-	50	37	74	35	9	26	10	
2002	104	11	11	*	-	-	31	13	42	33	13	39	7	
2003	76	11	14	*	-	-	30	26	87	27	7	26	9	
2004	77	7	9	*	-	-	20	13	65	21	9	43	7	
2005	81	11	14	*	-	-	29	22	76	22	5	23	10	
2006	105	21	20	*	-	-	36	29	81	26	9	35	5	
2007	117	22	19	*	-	-	34	33	97	37	18	49	8	
2008	138	12	9	*	-	-	38	25	66	23	8	35	9	
2009	158	41	26	*	-	-	39	22	56	48	15	31	12	
2010	168	43	26	*	-	-	65	64	98	72	21	29	11	
2011	221	51	23	*	-	-	54	50	93	76	21	28	15	
2012	237	61	26	*	-	-	74	67	91	108	47	44	23	
2013	280	102	36	*	-	-	115	103	90	143	46	32	27	
2014	(1 st Sitting)	107	25	23	28	22	79	-	-	-	85	46	54	48
	(2 nd Sitting)	200	35	18	-	-	-	77	58	75	70	28	40	
2015	(1 st Sitting)	121	18	15	42	30	71	-	-	-	62	24	39	79
	(2 nd Sitting)	176	41	23	-	-	-	56	50	89	66	16	24	
2016	(1 st Sitting)	163	22	13	60	57	95	-	-	-	68	14	21	45
	(2 nd Sitting)	132	14	11	-	-	-	37	33	89	64	27	42	
2017	(1 st Sitting)	109	31	28	45	40	89	-	-	-	63	27	43	37
	(2 nd Sitting)	116	29	25	-	-	-	44	44	100	63	26	41	
2018	(1 st Sitting)	122	24	20	52	48	92	-	-	-	54	25	46	52
	(2 nd Sitting)	117	40	34	-	-	-	56	46	82	56	26	46	
2019	(1 st Sitting)	145	53	37	80	58	73	-	-	-	70	21	30	41
	(2 nd Sitting)	124	18	15	-	-	-	69	61	88	70	32	46	

* suspended from 2001 to 2013

TABLE 7

Total number of registered medical practitioners in the General Register of Hong Kong

Part I of the Register (Full registration) (as at 31 December)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
On the Resident List	12 981	13 298	13 602	13 986	14 361
On the Non-resident List	745	715	688	665	643
Total:	13 726	14 013	14 290	14 651	15 004

Part III of the Register (Limited registration) (as at 31 December)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Promulgation No. 2	104	93	110	92	125
<i>University of Hong Kong</i>	(30)	(27)	(48)	(30)	(41)
<i>The Chinese University of Hong Kong</i>	(62)	(52)	(48)	(50)	(57)
<i>Hospital Authority</i>	(12)	(14)	(14)	(12)	(24)
<i>Department of Health</i>	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(3)
Promulgation No. 3	31	27	22	22	21
Promulgation No. 4	13	12	10	9	8
Promulgation No. 9	2	2	2	0	0
Promulgation No. 10	0	0	0	1	0
Promulgation No. 12	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	150	134	144	124	154

Remarks:

The types of employment as described in Promulgations No. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11 no longer exist.

TABLE 8

Breakdown of registrations and restoration to the General Register

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Registration in Part I of the Register (Full registration)	280	281	260	274	299	397	379	378	472	476
Registration in Part II of the Register (Provisional registration for interns)	272	261	275	299	399	383	380	471	477	469
Registration in Part III of the Register (Limited registration)	174	195	220	192	184	198	168	197	174	175
Registration in Part IV of the Register (Temporary registration)	101	135	98	102	110	109	86	108	96	102
Restoration to the Register	23	26	21	22	34	17	16	9	13	9
Total:	850	898	874	889	1 026	1 104	1 029	1 163	1 232	1 231

TABLE 9

Number of registered medical practitioners in the Specialist Register

(Position as at 31 December 2019)

	No.
1. Anaesthesiology	491
2. Intensive Care	30
3. Community Medicine	22
4. Emergency Medicine	364
5. Family Medicine	470
6. Obstetrics & Gynaecology	463
7. Ophthalmology	299
8. Orthopaedics & Traumatology	472
9. Otorhinolaryngology	179
10. Paediatrics	568
11. Pathology	168
12. Internal Medicine	99
13. Cardiology	260
14. Critical Care Medicine	65
15. Dermatology & Venereology	109
16. Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism	121
17. Gastroenterology & Hepatology	208
18. Geriatric Medicine	168
19. Haematology & Haematological Oncology	58
20. Nephrology	139
21. Neurology	128
22. Respiratory Medicine	187
23. Rheumatology	82
24. Psychiatry	401
25. Radiology	386
26. Clinical Oncology	155
27. Nuclear Medicine	21
28. General Surgery	572
29. Urology	135
30. Neurosurgery	80
31. Cardio-thoracic Surgery	49

	No.
32. Plastic Surgery	68
33. Paediatric Surgery	39
34. Immunology & Allergy	4
35. Infectious Disease	33
36. Medical Oncology	42
37. Administrative Medicine	11
38. Public Health Medicine	88
39. Occupational and Environmental Medicine	14
40. Anatomical Pathology	10
41. Chemical Pathology	14
42. Forensic Pathology	9
43. Haematology	12
44. Immunology	3
45. Clinical Microbiology & Infection	39
46. Palliative Medicine	23
47. Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics	0
48. Rehabilitation	24
49. Gynaecological Oncology	3
50. Urogynaecology	2
51. Reproductive Medicine	11
52. Maternal & Fetal Medicine	0
53. Pain Medicine	2
54. Paediatric Immunology & Infectious Diseases	9
55. Developmental-Behavioural Paediatrics	18
56. Paediatric Neurology	10
57. Clinical Toxicology	3
58. Paediatric Respiratory Medicine	7
59. Genetics and Genomics (Paediatrics)	3
60. Paediatrics Endocrinology	2
61. Genetic and Genomic Pathology	0
Total:	7 452

Attendance

Policy Meetings of the Council

Twelve policy meetings were held by the Council in 2019.

Member	No. of meeting during the tenure	No. of attendance
Prof. LAU Wan-ye, Joseph, SBS (Chairman)	12	12
Mrs BIRCH LEE Suk-ye, Sandra, GBS, JP	12	12
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN	12	11
Mr CHAN Wing-kai	12	11
Dr CHENG Chi-man	12	10
Dr CHEUNG Chin-pang	12	12
Dr CHEUNG Hon-ming	12	11
Dr CHOI Kin, Gabriel	12	11
Dr CHOW Yu-fat	12	11
Director of Health	12	12
Prof. FOK Tai-fai, SBS, JP	12	11
Dr HO Hung-kwong, Duncan	12	9
Dr HO Pak-leung, JP	12	11
Ms HUI Mei-sheung, Tennessy, MH, JP	12	12
Mr HUNG Hin-ching, Joseph	12	12
Dr IP Wing-yuk	12	10
Mr KWONG Cho-shing, Antonio, MH	12	11
Mr LAM Chi-yau	12	12
Dr LAM Tzit-yuen, David	12	9
Dr LAU Chor-chiu, GMSM, MH, JP	12	11
Dr LEE Wai-hung, Danny	12	12
Dr LEUNG Chi-chiu	12	9

Member	No. of meeting during the tenure	No. of attendance
Prof. Felice LIEH-MAK, GBS, CBE, JP	12	10
Dr LO Chi-yuen, Albert	12	11
Mr MUI Cheuk-nang, Kenny	12	11
Dr PONG Chiu-fai, Jeffrey	12	8
Dr SHEA Tat-ming, Paul	12	8
Prof. TANG Wai-king, Grace, SBS, JP	12	10
Dr WAI Yuk-chun, Veronica	12	12
Prof. WONG Yung-hou, MH	12	9
<u>Members whose tenure started in 2019</u>		
Dr LUNG David Christopher <i>(from 24 January 2019 onwards)</i>	11	10
Dr YEUNG Hip-wo, Victor <i>(from 24 January 2019 onwards)</i>	11	10
<u>Members whose tenure ended in 2019</u>		
Dr CHEUNG Tak-hong, JP <i>(ended on 23 January 2019)</i>	1	1
Dr CHOW Pak-chin, BBS, JP <i>(ended on 23 January 2019)</i>	1	1

Meetings of the deemed Preliminary Investigation Committee

Twelve meetings were held by the Committee in 2019.

Member	No. of meeting during the tenure	No. of attendance
Prof. FOK Tai-fai, SBS, JP (Chairman)	12	12
Dr CHONG Yee-hung	12	9
Dr FOO Kam-so, Stephen	12	12
Ms HUI Mei-sheung, Tennessy, MH, JP #	4	4
Mr HUNG Hin-ching, Joseph #	3	3
Mr KWONG Cho-shing, Antonio, MH #	3	3
Dr SO Yui-chi	12	12
<u>Members whose tenure started in 2019</u>		
Mrs BIRCH LEE Suk-yea, Sandra, GBS, JP <i>(from 7 February 2019 onwards)</i> #	3	3
Dr IP Wing-yuk (Deputy Chairman) <i>(from 13 February 2019 onwards)</i>	10	7
Dr FAN Yuen-man, Cecilia, JP <i>(from 5 July 2019 onwards)</i>	6	5
<u>Members whose tenure ended in 2019</u>		
Dr CHEUNG Tak-hong, JP <i>(chairmanship ended on 23 January 2019)</i>	1	1
Dr LEE Siu-yin, Ruby, JP <i>(ended on 4 July 2019)</i>	6	6

Remarks

Serving on a rotational basis, each for a period of 3 months

Meetings of the new Preliminary Investigation Committee

Twelve meetings were held by the Committee in 2019.

Member	No. of meeting during the tenure	No. of attendance
Dr CHENG Chi-man (Chairman)	12	12
Dr CHAN Nim-tak, Douglas (Deputy Chairman)	12	11
Dr CHIU Shing-ping, James	12	9
Dr LEE Wai-hung, Danny	12	12
Ms NG Ka-man, Rendy	12	10
Mr WONG Hin-wing	12	11
Prof. WONG Yung-hou, MH	12	9

Meetings of the Licentiate Committee

Five meetings were held by the Committee in 2019.

Member	No. of meeting during the tenure	No. of attendance
Dr CHEUNG Hon-ming (Chairman)	5	5
Dr CHAN Kit-sheung	5	4
Dr KONG Wing-ming	5	3
Dr LAM Wing-wo	5	5
Prof. LAU Yu-lung	5	3
Prof. LEUNG Wai-keung	5	4
Prof. NG Kwok-wai, Enders	5	1
Prof. SZETO Cheuk-chun	5	3
<u>Members whose tenure started in 2019</u>		
Dr YEUNG Tai-kong, Deacons (<i>from 7 August 2019 onwards</i>)	1	–
Dr LI Mun-pik, Teresa (<i>from 2 September 2019 onwards</i>)	1	1
<u>Members whose tenure ended in 2019</u>		
Dr LAM Man-kin, Ronald, JP (<i>ended on 18 July 2019</i>)	4	3
Dr KO Pat-sing, Tony (<i>ended on 31 July 2019</i>)	4	2

Meetings of the Education and Accreditation Committee

Nine meetings were held by the Committee in 2019.

Member	No. of meeting during the tenure	No. of attendance
Prof. TANG Wai-king, Grace, SBS, JP (Chairman)	9	9
Prof. CHAN Anthony Tak-cheung	9	3
Dr CHOW Yu-fat	9	8
Prof. HUNG Chi-tim, JP	9	6
Prof. HUNG Ivan Fan-ngai	9	1
Dr LAU Chor-chiu, GMSM, MH, JP	9	7
Prof. LEUNG Gilberto Ka-kit	9	7
Dr LUK Hung-to, Danny	9	8
Dr PONG Chiu-fai, Jeffrey	9	5
Dr TONG Kai-sing	9	4
Prof. WING Yun-kwok	9	5
Dr WONG Tin-chun, Gordon	9	6
<u>Members whose tenure started in 2019</u>		
Dr YEUNG Hip-wo, Victor (<i>from 6 March 2019 onwards</i>)	7	6
Dr LAM Nai-man (<i>from 5 October 2019 onwards</i>)	2	1
<u>Members whose tenure ended in 2019</u>		
Dr IP Wing-yuk (<i>ended on 21 February 2019</i>)	2	–
Dr LI Kai-ming (<i>ended on 4 October 2019</i>)	7	6

Meetings of the Ethics Committee

Seven meetings were held by the Committee in 2019.

Member	No. of meeting during the tenure	No. of attendance
Dr LEUNG Chi-chiu (Chairman)	7	7
Dr CHAN Hau-ngai, Kingsley	7	4
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN	7	6
Dr HO Pak-leung, JP	7	7
Mr KWONG Cho-sing, Antonio, MH	7	2
Dr LAM Tzit-yuen, David	7	4
Dr WAI Yuk-chun, Veronica	7	7
Dr WONG Grace Josephine Wing-san	7	4
Prof. WONG Yung-hou, MH	7	2
<u>Members whose tenure started in 2019</u>		
Mr MA Siu-leung, BBS, MH (<i>from 12 February 2019 onwards</i>)	6	5
Dr TSE Chun-yan, MH (<i>from 7 April 2019 onwards</i>)	5	3
Dr HO Hok-kung (<i>from 1 December 2019 onwards</i>)	–	–
<u>Members whose tenure ended in 2019</u>		
Prof. TAO LAI Po-wah, Julia (<i>ended on 11 February 2019</i>)	1	1
Dr LAI Cham-fai (<i>ended on 6 April 2019</i>)	2	2
Dr AU Kit-sing, Derrick (<i>ended on 30 November 2019</i>)	7	7

Hearings of the Health Committee

One hearing was held by the Committee in 2019.

Member	No. of hearing during the tenure	No. of attendance
Dr CHAN Siu-kim	1	1
Dr CHOW Chun-kwan, John	1	1
Dr HO Chung-ping, MH, JP	1	1
Dr HUNG Bing-kei, Gabriel	1	1
Mr HUNG Hin-ching, Joseph	1	1
Dr LO Chi-yuen, Albert	1	1
Dr LO See-kit, Raymond	1	1
Dr WONG Ho-shan, Steven	1	1
<u>Members whose tenure started in 2019</u>		
Dr SHEA Tat-ming, Paul (Chairman) <i>(from 2 February 2019 onwards)</i>	1	1
Dr CHEUNG Chin-pang <i>(from 6 March 2019 onwards)</i>	1	1
Dr LEE Siu-yin, Ruby, JP <i>(from 2 July 2019 onwards)</i>	–	–
Mr WOO King-hang <i>(from 7 August 2019 onwards)</i>	–	–
<u>Members whose tenure ended in 2019</u>		
Dr CHOW Pak-chin, BBS, JP <i>(chairmanship ended on 23 January 2019)</i>	–	–
Dr HO Hung-kwong, Duncan <i>(ended on 1 February 2019)</i>	–	–
Dr FAN Yuen-man, Cecilia, JP <i>(ended on 1 July 2019)</i>	1	–
Dr CHENG Lai-ling <i>(ended on 3 July 2019)</i>	1	–

Disciplinary Inquiries

A total of 41 disciplinary inquiries involving 43 hearing days were conducted in 2019.

(A) Attendance of Council Members

Member	No. of inquiry	No. of hearing day	Remarks
Prof. LAU Wan-ye, Joseph, SBS (Chairman)	23	26	(1)(2a)
Mrs BIRCH LEE Suk-ye, Sandra, GBS, JP	4	6	(2g)
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN	5	4	
Mr CHAN Wing-kai	4	4	
Dr CHENG Chi-man	1	1	(2e)
Dr CHEUNG Chin-pang	2	2	
Dr CHEUNG Hon-ming	1	2	
Dr CHOI Kin, Gabriel	3	3	(1)(2b)
Dr CHOW Yu-fat	3	3	
Director of Health	–	–	(3)
Prof. FOK Tai-fai, SBS, JP	–	–	(2c)
Dr HO Hung-kwong, Duncan	3	2	
Dr HO Pak-leung, JP	2	2	
Ms HUI Mei-sheung, Tennessy, MH, JP	5	4	(2g)
Mr HUNG Hin-ching, Joseph	6	9	(2g)
Dr IP Wing-yuk	1	1	(2d)
Mr KWONG Cho-shing, Antonio, MH	3	3	(2g)
Mr LAM Chi-yau	6	7	
Dr LAM Tzit-yuen, David	4	8	
Dr LAU Chor-chiu, GMSM, MH, JP	2	1	
Dr LEE Wai-hung, Danny	4	3	(2g)

Member	No. of inquiry	No. of hearing day	Remarks
Dr LEUNG Chi-chiu	3	3	
Prof. Felice LIEH-MAK, GBS, CBE, JP	15	14	(1)
Dr LO Chi-yuen, Albert	1	1	
Mr MUI Cheuk-nang, Kenny	8	6	
Dr PONG Chiu-fai, Jeffrey	1	1	
Dr SHEA Tat-ming, Paul	2	4	
Prof. TANG Wai-king, Grace, SBS, JP	–	–	(4)
Dr WAI Yuk-chun, Veronica	3	2	
Prof. WONG Yung-hou, MH	2	2	(2g)
<u>Members whose tenure started in 2019</u>			
Dr LUNG David Christopher (from 24 January 2019 onwards)	1	1	
Dr YEUNG Hip-wo, Victor (from 24 January 2019 onwards)	3	3	
<u>Members whose tenure ended in 2019</u>			
Dr CHEUNG Tak-hong, JP (ended on 23 January 2019)	–	–	
Dr CHOW Pak-chin, BBS, JP (ended on 23 January 2019)	–	–	

(B) Attendance of Assessors

Assessor	No. of inquiry	No. of hearing day	Remarks
Dr AU YEUNG Kam-chuen, Sidney	3	2	
Mr CHAN Hiu-fung, Nicholas, MH	4	4	
Dr CHAN Nim-tak, Douglas	1	1	(2f)
Prof. CHAN Anthony Tak-cheung	2	2	
Dr CHIU Shing-ping, James	4	5	(2g)
Prof. CHU Kent-man	2	2	
Ms CHUI Hoi-yee, Heidi	4	3	
Dr FUNG Ho-wang	3	2	
Mr HUI Cheuk-lun, Lawrence	1	1	
Mr KAN Pak-him Christopher	5	6	
Mr LAI Yat-hin, Adrian	2	2	
Dr LI Mun-paik, Teresa	2	3	
Dr MOK Pik-tim, Francis	3	8	
Ms NG Ka-man, Rendy	5	6	(2g)
Mr NG Ting-shan	6	5	
Mr POON Yiu-kin, Samuel	5	4	
Prof. TAN Choon-beng, Kathryn	2	2	
Mr WONG Hin-wing	4	9	(2g)
Prof. WONG Wing-kin, Gary	1	1	
Dr WONG Yee-him, John	3	2	
Mr WOO King-hang	8	5	
Dr YAM Kwong-yui	2	2	
Dr YEUNG Chiu-fat, Henry	3	2	

Assessor	No. of inquiry	No. of hearing day	Remarks
<u>Members whose tenure started in 2019</u>			
Dr FUNG Tak-kwan, James (from 13 February 2019 onwards)	3	3	
Dr MAK Siu-king (from 13 February 2019 onwards)	3	2	
<u>Members whose tenure ended in 2019</u>			
Dr CHENG Lai-ling (ended on 4 July 2019)	–	–	
Dr KONG Wing-ming (ended on 5 September 2019)	2	2	
Prof. KWONG Yok-lam (ended on 30 November 2019)	1	1	

(Note: As some inquiries were conducted on the same hearing day and some others were held on more than one day, the number of inquiry attended by some members / assessors is different from the respective number of hearing days attended by them.)

Remarks

- (1) With the enactment of the Medical Registration (Amendment) Ordinance (“Amendment Ordinance”) on 6 April 2018, which provided for, inter alia, the appointment of inquiry panels for disciplinary inquiries, Prof. LAU Wan-ye, Joseph and Prof. Felice LIEH-MAK had been the Chairpersons of inquiry panels since 6 April 2018, and Dr CHOI Kin, Gabriel had been the Chairperson of inquiry panels since 5 July 2019.
- (2) According to section 21(4A) of the Medical Registration Ordinance, the following Council Members / assessors (as denoted with remarks in the table), who had either served on (i) the former Preliminary Investigation Committee, i.e. the PIC established under the pre-amended Medical Registration Ordinance, which is also deemed as PIC (“deemed PIC”) after enactment of the Amendment Ordinance on 6 April 2018 or (ii) the Preliminary Investigation Committee established after enactment of the Amendment Ordinance (“new PIC”), did not attend disciplinary inquiries into the cases in which they had taken part during the preliminary investigation:
 - (a) Prof. LAU Wan-ye, Joseph, who was the Chairman of the PIC from 8 February 2006 to 6 March 2012.
 - (b) Dr CHOI Kin, Gabriel, who was the Chairman of the PIC from 7 March 2012 to 16 May 2016.
 - (c) Prof. FOK Tai-fai, who was the Deputy Chairman of the PIC from 2 February 2000 to 5 April 2018 and the deemed PIC from 6 April 2018 to 12 February 2019, and had been the Chairman of the deemed PIC since 13 February 2019.
 - (d) Dr IP Wing-yuk, who had been the Deputy Chairman of the deemed PIC since 13 February 2019.
 - (e) Dr CHENG Chi-man, who had been the Chairman of the new PIC since 5 September 2018.
 - (f) Dr CHAN Nim-tak, Douglas, who had been the Deputy Chairman of the new PIC since 3 October 2018.
 - (g) Council Members / assessors who were members of the deemed PIC / new PIC in 2019.
- (3) The Director of Health did not take part in disciplinary inquiries as she is also the Registrar of Medical Practitioners who is responsible for maintaining the General Register and Specialist Register.
- (4) The Chairman of the Education and Accreditation Committee (“EAC”), Prof. TANG Wai-king, Grace, had refrained from taking part in disciplinary inquiries, so as to keep herself untainted when considering relevant disciplinary cases of the defendant doctors in subsequent EAC proceedings.