



# 新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

## CUHK Concerned about the Proposal of General Medical Council

According to its current registration arrangement, the General Medical Council (GMC) of the United Kingdom may grant full, provisional, or limited registration status to overseas qualified doctors seeking registration with the GMC. Those who are granted limited registration may hold employment in training grades in the United Kingdom. Those with provisional registration may serve their internship in British hospitals in order to obtain the experience necessary for full registration. Those who are granted full registration may practise in any capacity in the United Kingdom, subject to the provisions of immigration laws. Apart from primary medical qualifications conferred by British universities, the GMC also recognises certain overseas qualifications for the purpose of full and provisional registrations. These recognised qualifications are contained in a schedule which includes primary medical qualifications conferred by universities in Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, the West Indies and the two universities in Hong Kong. Holders of these qualifications may register with the GMC on a provisional basis immediately after graduation and those who have also completed their internship in approved hospitals will be granted full registration status.

In November last year, the GMC circulated its proposal to replace this three-tier registration system by a uniform system of registration to parties concerned for comment. If the proposal is approved by the British Parliament, qualifications contained in the schedule mentioned above will no longer be automatically recognised for full and provisional registration in the United Kingdom. Overseas qualified doctors will be required to pass the PLAB (Proficiency and Linguistic Assessments Board) test before being granted a training registration status. Exemption from the PLAB test will only be offered to those who have sponsorships acceptable to the GMC. Doctors with training registration status may only hold training posts in the United Kingdom. They will only be allowed to proceed to full registration when they are deemed to have satisfied the GMC's requirement.

The Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, is very much concerned about the proposal of the GMC. The proposed arrangement will impose an extra burden on its graduates who are currently exempted from the PLAB test and may put its medical graduates at a disadvantage vis-a-vis their counterparts in the United Kingdom and the European Community when seeking opportunities for specialist training in the United Kingdom. The Faculty also believes that this arrangement will have adverse effects on the morale of its staff and students. It should be noted that The Chinese University of Hong Kong had previously been inspected by the GMC which had considered that the University's medical degrees were of the high standard for GMC's full registration.

In January this year, the Vice-Chancellor of the University and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine wrote separately to the GMC requesting it to give special consideration to the status of Hong Kong as a British Dependent Territory and to continue its recognition of the MB,ChB degrees conferred by the University for the purpose of full and provisional registration in the United Kingdom, up to at least 1 July 1997. The Dean of the Faculty has also written to the Governor who is also the Chancellor of the University for his support to our appeal to the GMC. It is understood that the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Hong Kong, has made similar pleas to the GMC. Regrettably, the GMC informed the Faculty early this month that, it will proceed to seek parliamentary approval of its proposal for a single form of registration for overseas qualified doctors as detailed in its consultation paper.

(For enquiry, please call Miss Samantha So at 6952857.)

June 24, 1991